March is Stewardship Month!
This month is Stewardship Month. You heard from the Stewardship Team during the worship service on Sunday, February 28th. Over the next few weeks we will be telling you more about the budget (past, present, and future), answering your questions, and collecting your pledges. As we go along the Stewardship Team will keep you updated on how we are doing. From House Parties, to individual contacts, to mailings, activities are fully under way to make this the most successful campaign ever! We exceeded our goals last year and hope to do the same this year. We have increased our membership and are embarking on some new ideas for our programs. We have a unique opportunity to get matching funds from outside sources so that some of our new goals can be realized. This is our Community and our Church so please consider increasing your pledge from last year. An increase of 5% would help us to meet our current operational goals for the coming year. An increase of 10% would help us begin new programs and support growth activities. Anything more would be a blessing!! Remember, small increases across our entire community will add up to quite a nice sum. So please get your pledge forms in to the Church Office or to our Treasurer, Julie Herrick, as soon as you can.

If you have not yet signed up for one of our informative House Parties, please email Ginny Spaulding at stewardship@channingchurch.org, thank you!

~Ginny Spaulding, Stewardship Team Chair
report having experienced street harassment. It is empowering for a person to self-declare “Me Too”. It is also complicated for the individual and society. On this Sunday in the middle of Women’s History month, Bill is going to step into a potential minefield to explore this history-making social phenomenon.

Following the service there will be a “Talk About” in the Channing Fireplace Room to discuss this societal issue.

Sunday, March 25
This is Our Story - The Haggadah

Guest Minister: Rev. Claire Bamberg

In this time of 23 & me and Ancestry.com, and at an age when exploring one’s roots carries more interest, my parents went searching. What they found took our family on a journey to spiritual roots that bore new meaning. This journey is our journey. Come, let’s begin the Passover experience together!

The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg, LMFT, PCC is no stranger to Channing. She is delighted to be returning. An ordained minister, licensed mental health professional, certified mediator and Certified Professional Coach, Claire uses sacred and secular texts, story and song to weave the service theme throughout the morning’s experience. She lives in Connecticut and works all over the nation as a consultant and coach.

FROM THE MINISTER

We believe that the true expression of our religion is the way we live our lives and we commit to use our diverse gifts as a catalyst for: creating a wellspring of caring and compassion within a vital and inspirational community, spiritual growth, stewardship of our historic spaces and positive changes within our community and the world. These declarations in our congregation’s Purpose statement are grand and noble descriptions of what a faith community should be about. Many congregation members, staff and ministers, over the years, have worked hard to give make them real. They have worked hard to be stewards of our ministries and programs.

But being stewards of our ministries and programs takes resources — time, skills and financial support. And that is what our annual stewardship campaign is all about — bringing together people’s volunteer time, skills and knowledge and monetary support.

The word stewardship comes from the Greek word oikenomous, which means somebody who manages a household. Stewards in the ancient world were trusted with everything from seeing that the floors were clean, to the finances, to the public face of that household. We, the members and friends of Channing Memorial Church are the stewards of this special faith community. We have been trusted with resources and the care of everything to keep us functioning and expanding our programs and ministries to meet the needs of our members and friends, and have an impact on the larger community.

Please listen to and reflect on what our Stewardship Team has to say regarding the 2018 campaign, and then please be generous in your support of Channing Memorial Church.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny
Email: minister@channingchurch.org

THANK YOU!

MARCH CHIMERS
March 4: Jim Freess
March 11: Cynthia Skelton
March 18: Janna Pederson
March 25: Linda Beall

MARCH CAREGIVING COORDINATORS
March 1-15: Rachel Balaban, John Burnham, or Barbara Russell-Willett
March 16-31: Nancy Caswell or Pam Rainey

Please call with any personal needs and/or needs among our church community
BOARD NEWS

Our February board discussions centered on what type of Family Ministry (previously known as “RE”) Program we would like to have at Channing next year. We understand that much has changed for families in recent years and the old classroom RE model no longer serves today’s families well. We are looking for new ways for children and families to explore faith formation and spirituality together. We may rely more on the internet and social media to connect with and reach out to busy families who can’t always attend Channing services. Instilling UU values of kindness, acceptance, and respect for others and our environment remains a central mission for Channing Church. Helping kids grow up within our faith traditions seems, now, more than ever, critical to our world. As we begin “budget season” at Channing, and we struggle with numbers and finance projections and programs and funding I think that when we consider our programs for children we need to measure success with each child that we reach. Each of our children could be the one child who refuses to ostracize a class mate, or won’t participate in a fraternity hazing ritual, or sticks up for a friend who is being bullied. Maybe one of our wonderful UU kids will be the one child who speaks out for peace, or social justice, or acceptance, or maybe is simply the one child who looks out for another who desperately needs a friend. If so, then maybe we’ve done our job. In Friendship,

Barbara Nowicki,
Channing President

SNOWSTORM CHURCH CLOSING

“Sometimes you get it right and sometimes you don’t” is a truism for weather forecasters and church decision-makers when it comes to snowstorms. Here’s what we are doing in the event of a major snow-fall on the weekend, or if there are complications with the buildings or streets as a result of a mid-week snowstorm.

The Board President and Minister decide whether to cancel the service. The decision generally will be made by Saturday afternoon.

The closing is posted on the Rhode Island Broadcasters Association’s website – www.ribroadcasters.com – which is accessible to everyone. This information will show up on the local television and radio stations.

A message is put on the church voicemail – 401-846-0643 -- by 7:00 a.m. Sunday morning

Even if the service is not canceled, congregation members should make the decision to travel and find parking that is best for them and their mobility and health condition.

~Rev. Bill

BLACK HISTORY ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Two Newport leaders were honored at the 47th Annual Robert L. Williams National Black History Assembly event at Rogers High School on Friday, February 16, 2018. This event is sponsored by Channing Memorial Church and Community Baptist Church and is the longest running black history assembly in the state, and possibly in the whole country.

This year the George T. Downing Award for community service and the spirit of integration went to Joanna, presented by Rev. Vincent Thompson.

The student recipient of the Dr. Marcus Wheatland Award went to Isaiah Branch and was presented by Rev. Zelazny. Isaiah, referred to as ‘the gentle giant,’ is an honor society student, captain and quarterback of the football team, and center of the basketball team. His extra curricular activities include, but are not limited to, helping with beach clean-up events and working with D.A.R.E. At home he helps his mother with both child care and cooking. Isaiah has been accepted at the University of Rhode Island where he plans to study kinesiology. His hard work, maturity, reliability, politeness, and commitment to the community have made him

Continued on Page 7
FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

The RE Committee and Channing families extend a heart-felt thank you to Jessica Thomas who has served as the Director of Religious Education at Channing Church for the past 5 years. Jess will be stepping down from her role in June to pursue other endeavors in the field of science. We are truly grateful for the leadership role that Jess took on during a time at Channing that was filled with change and sometimes uncertainty. Through it all, Jess was a force of energy with plans, classes, events, and smiles for the children and youth of the congregation, as well as Messages for All Ages that also resonated with adult members. In addition to teaching Sunday morning RE classes, Jess oversaw the Youth Group, Coming of Age, and Our Whole Lives, as well as creating COSMOS, Family Fun Day, and reviving the Spiritual Parenting Group. From all who have benefitted from Jessica’s dedication to this program, we say THANK YOU!

HAPPENINGS

Volunteerism is the theme for Sunday morning RE classes in March. Classes meet the 1st and 4th Sunday of the month at 10:00am, just after the Message for All Ages. We invite children to attend the Sunday service with their families on the 2nd Sunday of the month and to bake desserts for the Community Meal with us on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please see the Religious Education calendar for other offerings. For the most up to date information, visit the Channing Memorial website: ChanningChurch.org and Channing RE’s Facebook page: Channing Memorial UU Religious Education

VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in helping with classes, youth group, or special events please let Jessica Thomas know - we have many different ways that you can become involved.

CHILDCARE

Childcare is offered for children 4 and under during Worship on Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall. Our childcare providers, Miss Morgan and Ms. Amy, will take care of your little ones while you are in church and at coffee hour. No need to preregister.

RE CALENDAR

Sunday, March 4: RE Class
- 11:30am OWL Class
- March Family Fun Day!
Fall River Children’s Museum located at: 441 North Main Street, Fall River, MA. We will meet at the entrance at 12:30. Admission is $8.00 per person (12 months and over). Please see Jessica Thomas if the admission price constitutes a hardship.
- 6:00 Youth Group

Sunday, March 11: NO RE Class. Please bring your children to the worship service. There is a table in the back of the Sanctuary with crafts for those who may be restless.

Sunday, March 18: RE Class bakes for the Community Meal
- 11:30am OWL Class
- 11:30am-1:00pm Spiritual Parenting in the Ladies’ Parlor – Childcare is provided
- 6:00 Youth Group

Sunday, March 25: RE Class
C A R E G I V I N G  
U P D A T E
After the rather strange ping-pong weather of this winter, spring is almost here! Thank you so much to Marion Royer, Marcia Mallory, and Barbara Richter, Caregiving coordinators during February, for their attention and efforts.

Our thoughts and deepest condolences are extended to Maggie Bulmer, whose son, Eric, died suddenly at Newport Hospital from complications of the flu on Jan. 27. Eric, who owned the Pow! Science! store in South Kingstown with his wife Hema, is also survived by a daughter, Khatima, and many other family members and friends. A celebration of Eric’s life was held on Feb. 20 at the Jane Pickens Theater.

Kristin Pierini has been recovering from an emergency surgery to replace a shunt. We are glad to hear that she is home and doing well at the time of this writing.

Congratulations to Mary Lou and Dick Baker, who are excited about the arrival of a new great-granddaughter, Freya Lee!

For any Caregiving needs during March, please do not hesitate to contact any of the following individuals: Rachel Balaban, John Burnham, or Barbara

Russell-Willett from March 1-15, and Nancy Caswell or Pam Rainey from March 16-31.

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

M A R C H  
SHARE THE PLATE
As we struggle to absorb the horrific news of another mass shooting at a school in our country, we want to determine how stop the devastating violence. We should know that Nonviolent Schools RI (NSRI) is already working to change the culture in RI schools and to develop those schools into Martin Luther King’s ideal of a Beloved Community. Channing will share donations made during Sunday services in March with NSRI.

NSRI believes that every child deserves to learn in a nonviolent environment and that a curriculum of nonviolence has a place in every classroom. The organization practices and teaches the Kingian nonviolence philosophy and provides members of the school communities with the knowledge, skills, and motivation necessary to solve personal and community problems peacefully.

Last year, 26 educators and administrators from the three Newport schools (Pell Elementary, Thompson Middle, and Rogers High School), attended a 20-hour after-school training program presented by NSRI.

That training continues and is enhanced by mentors who work in the schools on how to practice and implement the Kingian curriculum and how to improve the climate and culture of the schools.

Channing’s Wendy Bowen is one of those mentors. She is remarkably qualified. Wendy has 34 years of teaching and administrative experience and was an educator in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012, the year of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Wendy is committed to making a difference and preventing another school shooting. She has chosen to work with NSRI to create strong, supportive school communities through the use of nonviolence, restorative practice, and mindfulness.

NSRI will use Channing’s financial support to purchase materials, supplies and resources for the teachers educating students in nonviolence throughout Rhode Island.

Please be generous as you always are.

~Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McEntee for the Social Action Committee (SAC)

C O M M U N I T Y  
M E A L
Monday, March 19
3:30-6:15pm, in the Parish Hall

Thanks to everyone who helped at our February community meal! Our next Community Meal will be Monday, March 19th. If you would like to help please contact Joy Benson to see what you can do.
GREEN CORNER

Take the Pledge to Fight for Clean Seas!

Working together – we can change the world! The UN Environment Program is counting on that with its campaign, Clean Seas.

There's a ground swell of concern over the plastic pollution of the planet. Sea birds, marine mammals and other sea creatures are dying by the hundreds of thousands because of human waste. Plastic bags, plastic cups, Styrofoam take-out containers, straws, fishing gear, released celebration balloons—all this plastic pollution is threatening to choke our planet! The United Nations Environment program has kicked off this massive worldwide campaign to end the flow of one-use plastic waste on land and sea. Its overall goals include:

- Pioneering national legislation and policies to promote marine litter reduction.
- Implementing market and non-market based instruments and incentives to encourage industry and private sector to take more action towards combating marine litter.
- Setting up national plastic management systems to measure their total plastic footprint.

They're looking to governments, businesses, industry, community groups, faith based groups, college campuses and concerned individuals to take a pledge to take action against this problem. Today more than 40 countries have committed to the pledge, more than 70,000 individuals have stepped up and hundreds of business are starting to participate! With their collaboration, we hope we can inspire citizens to act, governments to follow and a new generation of corporate leaders to step forward.

I ask all concerned Channing people to go to www.Cleanseas.org to sign the pledge. Please help us come together as a faith-based community to help make #CleanSeas a reality as soon as possible!

~Susan Adie, Guest Columnist
Green Cong. Committee

With the spring gardening season just around the corner, and many of us looking longingly at seed catalogues, and toward a spring following a winter that never really happened, I wanted to introduce a topic that has captured the interest of many gardeners. That is “going native” with some or all of their lawn. The idea is that rather than devoting chemical fertilizers weed killers, lime and much water, instead we plant dense beds of wildflowers, annual and perennial. Not only can gardeners avoid those inputs, they can also attract pollinator insects and other desired wildlife. The N.E. Wild Flower Society is publishing a book entitled Native Plants for New England Gardens. It's available for order on their web site, www.newfs.org. Beth and I hope to be resources for anyone interested.

Beth and I (and it was really Beth’s idea) are thinking about surveying parishioners (again) on our current green practices. From generating electricity through with solar panels to the use of energy saving appliances, that snapshot can give us all valuable insight into our member’s behaviors, as well as ideas we can incorporate ourselves. We’ll base the survey on the last one we did in 2010, to compare how we’re doing eight years later. More info in April.

~Craig Gaspard,
Green Cong. Committee

ECO-BITS & TIPS

Thoughts of Spring

With so much news happening In Washington and around the county, and much of the latter being tragic with another mass shooting of school children, it is a challenge to keep our environment in focus. Still, there are two environmental topics I wanted to cover this month.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Black History Assembly Update continued: this year’s recipient of this award and the scholarship provided by Channing and Community Baptist.

Moderator for the assembly was Tahjeana Ivey, another outstanding senior student who plans to major in nursing in college. She also received a small scholarship from Channing and Community Baptist.

The assembly included original musical selections by Mr. Kenneth Johnson, a member of Community Baptist Church choir.

The assembly was followed by a breakfast reception in the Colonial Dining Room.

Channing members of the steering committee for this assembly are Judith Porter, Sally Hanchett, and Rev. Bill Zelazny. Sam Jernigan also assists the committee by contributing the award certificates.

~Submitted by Judith Porter

YOGA & MEDITATION SERVICE
Sunday March 18, 8:45am, Parish Hall
Ready to try something new? Please join us for a Yoga & Meditation Service, Sunday March 18, 8:45 am in the Parish Hall. No experience necessary! (see Rachel Balaban or Barbara Nowicki with questions).

MARCH GREAT GUYS GROUP
Saturday, March 24, 8:30am, Parish Hall
Come and join a group of Channing Memorial men for breakfast and discussion from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday of each month in the Parish Hall. Members of the group make breakfast then discuss a topic of interest (non political). Get to know some of the great guys of the church.

One Time Change for March –gathering moved to March 24 to avoid the potential parking and travel problems from the St. Pat’s Day parade.

~Submitted by Judith Porter

NEWPORT MUSIC FESTIVAL CONCERT

Saturday, April 14, 7:00pm, in the Sanctuary
Two long-time Newport Music Festival resident artists, flutist Göran Marcusson and pianist Tim Carey, will join forces for the Chamber Music Series.

Marcusson has been guest principal flute with the London Symphony Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Cadaques, and Gothenburg Opera Orchestra. Currently he is Principal Flute with the Gothenburg Wind Orchestra and also maintains a busy international schedule as a soloist, performing in the USA, South America, Asia, and throughout Europe.

Tim Carey is also a critically acclaimed solo performer, chamber-music player, orchestral keyboard player and teacher. He spends his time partnering with many different instrumentalists, especially flutists, in a variety of chamber-music combinations, as well as giving the occasional solo recital or concerto performance.

Tickets are $40, and are available through the Newport Music Festival Website: newportmusic.org

CHANNING’S COFFEE HOUSE
Saturday, March 31, 7:00pm, Parish Hall
For March we will feature performances by local songwriting musicians. Join us for a night of originals! Coffee and tea are served, and you’re invited to bring a dessert to share or a donation ($5 or more suggested) to support the church. Musicians interested in performing, contact John Burnham in advance at: coffeehouse@channingchurch.org
Expressing Your Moral Compass
With Rev. Bill Zelazny
Wed. March 7, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Channing Parish Hall
Please join us for the remaining class (“Ethics of Conscience and Responsibility”), of a three-part series, where Rev. Bill will provide readings and lead us in thoughtful discussion of the difficulty of doing good, and of character as an element in ethical decision making.
Please RSVP ahead of time, with your email, to Michele in the church office at office@channingchurch.org. We would welcome a small one-time donation to help defray program costs – thanks.

Planned Giving, Part Two
Presented by Joseph Marion, Attorney
Wed. Mar. 21, 6:30 PM, Channing Parish Hall
Co-sponsored by the Finance Committee
In December, our first Planned Giving program covered a general overview of will and estate planning. In 2018, the new tax law has changed the game considerably! We’ll continue in our discussion of trusts, and include IRA’s and estate and gift planning in the conversation. Q and A to follow; wine and cheese. No charge.
An experienced estate planning attorney, Joseph Marion is associated with the firm Adler, Pollock, and Sheehan, (offices in Boston, Providence, and Newport); and he is a frequent lecturer for the Boston and Rhode Island Bar Associations.

Wargaming at the U.S. Naval War College:
Preventing War by Being Prepared for It
With CAPT Thomas R. Beall, U.S. Navy (Ret.) and Dr. Margaret M. Polski, Associate Professor, U.S. Naval War College
Wed. Mar. 28, 6:30 PM, Newport Public Library Program Room
Refreshments will be served; Q and A to follow; free and open to the public
(Per Library policy, we cannot collect donations for programs in the Library, but would be pleased to receive contributions to TLC in advance, to help defray costs)
Join our speakers, Channing Members CAPT Tom Beall and Dr. Margaret Polski, as they trace the history and current state of wargaming at the U.S. Naval War College, an activity of national and international importance conducted at a uniquely Newport institution.
CAPT Beall has studied Military History at Norwich University, National Security and Strategic Studies at the Naval War College, and Operations Research at the Naval Postgraduate School.
Dr. Polski supports wargaming, analysis, teaching, and advising activities in the Wargaming Department in the Center for Naval Warfare Studies. She has provided analysis and research at home and abroad, to address national security decision making and operations.