2018-19 SLATE OF OFFICERS

Board of Trustees
Co-Presidents: Eleanor Doumato & Tom Howard
Vice-President: Ginny Spaulding
Program Coordinator: Marian Royer
Treasurer: Julie Herrick
Secretary: JoAnn Rosemont
Member at Large (even year) Susan Booth
Member at Large (even year) Margaret Polski
Member at Large (odd year) Vacant as we have Co-Presidents
Member at Large (odd year) Bill Hawkins

Standing Committee Chairs
Finance (board position) David Banister
Membership Cal Pierce
Property Chris Laudon & Abby Adams
Family Ministry Kathy Takata
Social Action Nan Heroux
Worship David Pedrick

Autonomous Committees / Positions
Financial Secretary Bob Janiesch
Endowment Mary Alice Smith (chair)
Chris Yalanis & Terry Gavan
Margit Baum Fund Sally Hanchett (chair)
Ruth Jernigan, Joy Benson, Susan Booth, and Judie Porter
Nominating (Board, even) To be appointed by the Board
(Board, odd) Chris Laudon
(Nominating, even) Barbara Nowicki
(Nominating, odd) Ruth Jernigan

2 UNSUNG UU AWARDS!
Both Kathy Takata and Abby Adams received an Unsung UU Award from Channing President, Barbara Nowicki, during the 2018 Annual Meeting in appreciation for their generous service & devoted commitment to Channing Memorial Church.

June Worship Services
Sunday, June 3rd
Encouraging Children’s Spirituality
Jess Thomas & Bill Zelazny
Connecting to the spiritual and engaging in spiritual practices isn’t just for adults. Children do think about what adults call spirituality and come naturally to many of the ways that people use to get closer to the sacred, broadly defined. Jess and Bill will discuss what spirituality means for children, and how adults can help their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews explore spiritual expression in age appropriate manners.

Sunday, June 11th
Pride Service: Are We Really Born This Way?
Rex LeBeau & Interweave
Yes, we've all heard the popular Lady Gaga song and maybe even helped with Channing’s own Born This Way Prom. What does this phrase really mean when it comes to being part of the LGBTQ community? Maybe you've heard of some people knowing they were queer at a young age. Maybe you've heard of people coming out later in life after a surprise change in identity. Let’s explore this concept as it relates to the wonderful mess it can be to be human.

Worship Services continued on page 2
Sunday, June 17
Masculine Spirituality
Rev. Bill Zelazny
In the 1970’s and ’80s the men’s movement developed alongside and sometimes in response to the women’s movement and feminism. Over the years the movement branched into different groupings and focuses – therapeutic, self-help, fathering, freeing the male spirit, pro-feminist initiatives. One aspect of this male identity process engendered by the men’s movement is work done by men to appropriately access masculine spirituality. This Father’s Day Sunday Bill will look at the concept of masculine spirituality and how men connect with the divine. He would assume that this topic probably will be of interest to women too.

Sunday, June 24: TBD
Guest Speaker, Ed hardy

FROM THE MINISTER

Our Past Year
Looking back on the past 12 months as we come to the end of the church year, I think we have much to about which to feel good. As I reported at the Annual Meeting I see that a very large percentage of the congregation being regularly involved in some manner with congregation life and people are enjoying being together. We have become a place with a very positive vibe, which is both good for our members and for those who check us out as a possible new religious home.

Our fellowship and social action activities provided many avenues for members to find connection and service. During this year we engaged in most of our traditional fellowship and social action activities along with a few new ones such as our Neighbor Helping Neighbor project of the Baum Committee and the Guns to Plow Share ceremony. We welcomed some new members and regular friends and sadly said our farewells to several individuals and families.

Our staff worked hard to meet the spiritual, education and social needs of the congregation. We will miss our Director of Family Ministry who gave so much of her time and energy to Channing over the past several years. I hope you take a moment to thank our staff – Michele, Jess, Janet, Pat for all their work.

If you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting please will take some time to read the Annual Report to see all of the good things we did at Channing this year.

Looking Ahead
I will be starting my summer by going to General Assembly and taking vacation and study leave from July 1 to August 15, though I will be available for any personal emergency. This Fall we will be initiating our redesigned Family Ministry program, though as of the writing for this Catalyst issue the Family Ministry Development Task Force is still developing the program details. We hope to unveil the new program in early Summer. I also hope to launch this Fall a Senior Adult Ministry to provide education and spiritual programs specifically focused on older individuals at Channing and in the larger community. More information about this ministry will be out in early Fall.

Our In-Gathering Sunday is September 9. I look forward to seeing you in the Fall. Have a wonderful summer.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

JUNE CHIMERS
June 3: Linda Beall
June 10: Christine Ariel
June 17: Cynthia Skelton
June 24: Jim Freess

PARKING FOR WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer is busy in Newport! To make Sunday parking easier there are yellow maps available on the Sanctuary back table (next to the exit) showing parking spaces within walking distance of church. These spaces are available during the Sunday worship services only (ESPECIALLY AT THE ART MUSEUM!). Don’t forget to put your map on your dashboard where it is clearly visible to identify you as a Channing Parishioner. Please note that parking is not allowed to us by the Elk’s lodge.
Feelings were hurt when programs that required much effort were ignored or poorly attended merely because there were too many other activities to choose from. To some degree, our programs and activities have become an end or goal in themselves rather than a means of furthering our mission. It’s time to revisit our mission together and agree on a few clearly defined goals for the coming year.

And finally, we need to regain focus together as a community. Any discord that I witnessed this year at Channing could always be traced back to a lack of coordination and communication. With so many committees and so many activities and programs occurring concurrently, conflicts arose around calendar scheduling and space utilization. Volunteer resources were stretched to the limit and committees found themselves lacking the helpers needed to get their jobs done. Rather than supporting one another, committees were in stiff competition for limited resources.

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In friendship,
Barbara Nowicki,
President, Board of Trustees

**WHAT SHOULD WE BE PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO NEXT YEAR?**

Since this is my final month as congregation President, I couldn’t resist the opportunity to offer my “two cents” about what we might need to pay special attention to in the future. First and foremost, **we need to make congregational growth a priority.** New members infuse our church community with vitality, strength and resiliency. Welcoming and encouraging new members to explore their own spiritual pathways and sharing our UU values and ideals are tasks central to our mission. Our new internet presence, via Facebook and our Web Site, is critical to our success, but we also need to continue to work to “get ourselves known and noticed” in the local community. Helping our newest members feel welcomed and assimilated is an important job for all of us, not just the Membership Committee.

Second, **we need a few energetic volunteers to plan and execute some serious fundraisers in the coming year!** Our current income is not sufficient to support our staff and programs. This year, program costs were cut to a minimum, so to avoid cutting back on staff next year we need to increase our income, either through increased pledging or through fundraising. Asking our members and friends to increase their pledges will help, but fundraising, especially for funds from outside our congregation, is ideal.

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In friendship,
Barbara Nowicki,
President, Board of Trustees

**Summer Church Office Hours**

**June**
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
10:00am-1:00pm
Closed Wednesdays

**July and August**
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10:00am-1:00pm
Closed Mondays and Wednesdays
(Closed July 16-27 for Summer Break)
CAREGIVING UPDATE
We have already come to June, the beginning of summer! As usual at Channing, activities will slow down over the summer months, but please remember that Caregiving assistance is available year-round to anyone in our congregation who could use a little extra help or support. We thank the Marshalls, Bill and Bett, and Abby Adams, who served as Caregiving coordinators during May.

It is always wonderful to hear from former Channing members who are now living elsewhere. Anna Smith recently wrote to say that she and Jake have moved to the D.C. area, where they are enjoying having family nearby and getting involved with various activities in their new community. Jake is still having chemo treatments, yet he is as active as ever. Their new address is The Oaks of Wellington, 10240 Hendley Rd, Apt. 216, Manassas, VA 20110.

Sadly, the Drain family will be leaving us at the end of May. Patrick, Lauren, Maddie, and Julian have brought a lot of life and smiles to our congregation since they joined us a couple of years ago, and they will be missed. Their new address is 1707 Oakcrest Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. We wish you all the best in your new home!

Judie Porter sent me a notification that a long-time past member of Channing, Sue White, recently passed away in Alabama, where she had been living. Sue was an active church member during the 1980s and early 1990s, and had three children, Stephen, Will, and Barbara, who attended Sunday School. The memorial will be here at Channing later this summer.

Congratulations to several of our younger members who will be attending college in the fall! Morgan Thomas will go to the University of New Hampshire, and Reilly Pfirrmann will attend Emanuel College. At the time of this writing, Shannen Thomas was still awaiting a final decision, but will attend either Clarkson University or Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

For any Caregiving needs during June, please do not hesitate to contact Betsy Leerssen from June 1-15, June 16-30 coordinators TBA.

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

A SENIOR ADULT-FOCUSED MINISTRY BEING CONSIDERED

Rev. Bill has begun to research ideas about starting a program that is specifically for senior adults. Classes and spiritual-focused discussion sessions (not support group) would be the at the core of the program. Classes would be offered through The Learning Center.

An Advisory Team would plan the classes in conjunction with Rev. Bill. Ideas for classes and speakers are welcome. Rev. Bill is also seeking a congregation members to serve as 5 to 7 hours a month volunteer Senior Adult Ministry Coordinator to manage the program. Congregation members interested in this volunteer position are invited to talk with Rev. Bill Zelazny (minister@channingchurch.org) to get a copy of the job description.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

DINE & DONATE
Saturday, June 23, 5-8pm
The Doumato Home in Newport

Dine and Donate, is a kids helping kids fundraiser. Inspired by the cash provided to them through the Margit Baum Neighbors Helping Neighbors program, Channing youth are holding a fundraiser dinner on Saturday June 23rd from 5:00pm-8:00pm at Eleanor Doumato’s Home (rain date June 24th )

The event will feature food, drinks and outdoor fun. Tickets can be purchased Sunday’s during coffee hour or ordered from Sally Hanchett or through our youth.

Our kids have enjoyed many camp experiences and are raising funds for Camp scholarships for Newport children who need financial help to attend camp.
Plagued by Plastics

Last month’s Channing Earth Day theme has had a lingering effect on me. The film *A Plastic Ocean*, and Susan Adie’s Earth Day message have stayed with me, and are affecting my daily walks. I’d inherited my grandmother’s gene for compulsively picking up trash, and had tried to stay reasonable about it, but now I can’t pass any bite-sized piece of trash -- straws in particular -- without picturing it in the belly of a fish or a bird, and I have to pick it up. I try not to be obnoxious when I see individual plastic bottles of water being given out, and Russ and I are getting good about requesting “no straws” when we dine out.

It’s gratifying to read about the sustainable practices that the Volvo Ocean Racers practice and preach, and I hope local boaters and shoreline fans are taking them to heart. As I was leaving the Newport Library today, a book on a display rack reached out and grabbed me. The title is *Boat Green: 50 Steps Boaters Can Take to Save Our Waters*, by Clyde W. Ford. We aren’t boaters, but those who are might want to take a look. It’s for pilots of boats of all types, from kayaks to yachts.

There are tips for lowering power boat carbon footprints, for maintenance, including cleaning solutions and bottom paints, bilge and pumping out, for choosing anchoring sites, for managing ocean-going pets, and finally, for teaching children and working with groups to improve conditions in general.

And please make this the day you take the UN Environmental Program pledge, by visiting [www.cleanseas.org](http://www.cleanseas.org). It’s easy, and it’s so important, whether we’re boaters or land lubbers!

~Beth Milham,
Green Congregation

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Soils and Fertility

The first installment included some background about basic differences in soils. Today, I’m addressing soil fertility. Non-organic fertilizers and amendments have one big advantage--their quick availability. The huge disadvantage is that they are not well bound to the soil and can cause runoff and nutrient pollution when incorrectly applied. When using organic sources, one needs to plan ahead because of their much slower response.

Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium are the main or macronutrients, and most fertilizer products are labeled with these three macronutrients, using their chemistry shorthand: N-P-K. (e.g. 10-10-10 or 3-5-1) Nitrogen, while abundant in the air, is not abundant naturally in the soil and is perhaps the most important element for plant growth because it is the major constituent of chlorophyll, which makes plants green. It’s also essential for proteins and building plant structure.

Phosphorus is critical for life in general and for energy and plant growth, including photosynthesis. Potassium, is also critical for plant energy production and is a key regulator of carbon dioxide intake.

While these three elements are essential for plant growth, in the right ratio, other micronutrients and soil conditions, such as organic matter percentage, make for a balanced soil. It’s important to have your soil tested. The best link is [https://nevegetable.org/cultural-practices/soil-testing-labs-new-england](https://nevegetable.org/cultural-practices/soil-testing-labs-new-england). Another option is to take soil samples (limit of 3 at a time) to a Master Gardener free testing site. The closest is Prescott Farm in Middletown. For a list of sites and dates, see [https://web.uri.edu/mastergardener/soil-testing-service](https://web.uri.edu/mastergardener/soil-testing-service).

Directions for sample preparation: Collect samples at the plant or lawn root zone (around 6” deep). Gather about 1/2 cup from several sites within the same area. Mix them together, allow the soil to dry overnight on newspaper. Place 1 cup of the dried mix in a paper bag or clean container and label it. Collect separate samples from different areas, such as vegetable gardens, lawns and flower gardens.

Next month I will cover the micronutrients, and how this all works together.

~Craig Gaspard,
for the Green Cong. Committee
SHARE THE PLATE
Summer camp can be a joyful, expanding, tantalizing experience for children. That can be especially true for children who are homeless and living in the unfamiliar environment of a shelter. For those reasons, Channing will share the financial donations offered during its June Sunday services with Lucy’s Hearth to provide a child, or children, living at the shelter with a summer camp experience.

As many of you know, Lucy’s Hearth is a 24 hour emergency and transitional shelter for families which primarily serves Newport County residents. It is located in Middletown. Most of the parents served are in their late 20s, and the children are newborns to 18 year olds. The staff works to insure the homeless families learn the skills and develop the personal strengths needed to secure stable, nurturing home environments.

Channing is partnering with the staff of Lucy’s Hearth. Channing will provide the June Share The Plate funds and the staff of Lucy’s Hearth will select the child, or children, and the summer experience best suited for the chosen child/ren. The staff will work with parents to determine the child/ren who would rather ride. All are welcome, kids too.

For more information on Pride Fest and the Parade, contact Rex Le Beau at interweave@channingchurch.org

PRIDE FEST AND ILLUMINATED NIGHT PARADE
Join Interweave at Pride Fest on June 16 from noon to 5pm along South Water Street in Providence. We’ll have a booth with information about Channing, Interweave, and being a UU. Volunteers welcome. It’s super easy. All you have to do is be your awesome self. The festival is also super fun for the whole family. More info at Rhode Island Pride | Providence, RI

All are welcome to march with Interweave in the Illuminated Night Parade. The staging area will probably be around Friendship Street. The parade will march north on Dorrance St, to Washington St, to Empire St, ending after the reviewing stand at PPAC on Weybosset St. You don’t have to be part of Interweave to march, and the more the merrier. We will have a pickup truck for those who would rather ride. All are welcome, kids too.

For more information on Pride Fest and the Parade, contact Rex Le Beau at interweave@channingchurch.org

FROM THE LEARNING CENTER FOR JUNE
In July and August 2018, we’ll be running 4 evening fundraiser programs for Channing, suggested by Rev. Bill. They will be a series of informal lecture-style programs in the Parish Hall, given by generous Channing members on their areas of expertise. The programs will be intended to attract summer visitors as well as members of the Newport community. The theme will be: “Exploring Newport: Structures, Sea, Sky, Society“ (Structures = historic buildings; Sea = sailing; Sky = birds of Aquidneck Island; Society – the Newport “Cottage” culture) We will hope for food and beverage donations, and would be grateful for some help at the events! Likely dates are Weds. July 18 and 25, and August 8 and 15, starting around 6:30 PM. Watch for future news as the programs develop.

Also in the works: a musical fundraiser to benefit the Church, to be held during “Bridgefest”, on Tue. July 31, with local bands Farm Dog and The Geezers. Volunteers are needed to help out!

Please contact Susan Kieronksi:
Learningcenter@channingchurch.org

GREAT GUYS GROUP
Saturday, June 16, 8:30-10:30am, Parish Hall
Come and join a group of Channing Memorial men for the last breakfast and discussion of the church year! Members of the group make breakfast then discuss a topic of interest (non-political).