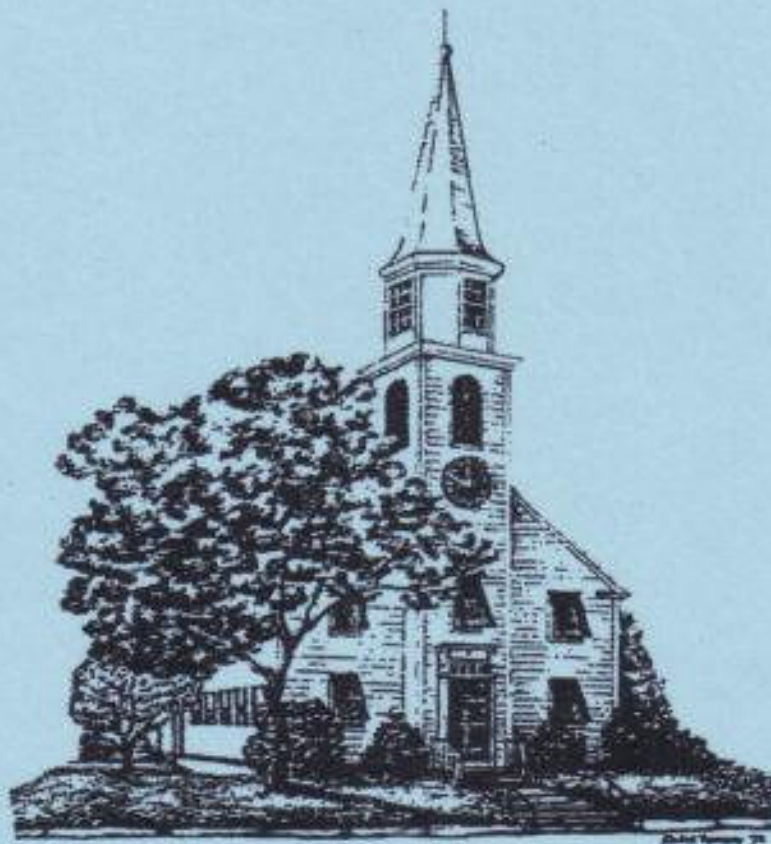


The Kingston Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Kingston, RI 02881

Annual Report 2004
Annual Meeting
January 30, 2005



YOU are Welcome Here!

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Annual Report from the Senior Pastor

January 2005

The Annual Meeting of the Church seems to me a time of CELEBRATION! The people of the Kingston Congregational Church have so much to celebrate as we pause to thank God for the wonderful, active, growing year we have enjoyed:

- worship services fed our souls
- cooks fed our appetites as we enjoyed meals and fellowships together
- adult education filled the year with opportunities to learn and grow
- music lifted our spirits
- In blue jeans, volunteers cleaned, washed, mopped, and repaired
- new members joined
- worship attendance grew
- the sounds of laughing children filled our hallways
- junior and senior high youth operated with red-hot enthusiasm
- giving increased
- the endowment grew
- members gave record amounts to help others
- (almost a double "tithe" of the churches budget is given away)
- we celebrated new babies with baptisms and celebrated the lives of members and friends who died
- new families blossomed as brides and grooms said "*I do*"
- more than 100 volunteers ran the church, on boards and committees, in classrooms and the choir loft, in the kitchen and fellowship hall.
- activities, suppers, lectures, concerts, celebrations, parties, and festivals filled our schedules, along with the active program of Women's Fellowship, Family Life Committee, and the Music Committee. One member looking at the weekly bulletin said "*There's so much going on that you can't possibly do everything.*"

Of course, the test of a good church is not how busy it is but how faithful it is. Are we leading members to worship God and to serve others? Are YOU growing spiritually? Are we motivated to lift others up? Do we extend friendliness, hospitality, and a warm welcome to all? Is it obvious that we are growing in our desire to love and to forgive, as led by Jesus? Do we hold one another up, almost as a second family? These qualities are harder to count or measure, but they are the mark of a successful church.

Organizations do not succeed by chance. Behind success is leadership. In that, the Kingston Congregational Church has great cause for celebration. Sue Kermes, who concludes her term as President of Church Council, provided gifted, experienced, and compassionate leadership to the church. Nelson Weiderman, who wraps up his long term as Treasurer, has performed a job of heroic proportions. If you peeked behind the scenes of the church's operation, you would have witnessed your senior leaders who chaired or co-chaired boards offering their skills in service to you and in love to God: Nancy Holland, Paulette Osterman, Jim Ross, Amy Hubertus, Lauren Munroe, and Dan Reifsteck. There are hundreds more who have served this church this year. To all, I am deeply grateful and hold you by name in my prayers regularly.

And then there is THE TEAM:

- 1 **Enrico Garzilli**, our talented superstar in music. Everything Enrico touches turns to beauty. He is my favorite singer barring none. When Enrico plays the piano and sings, I worship.
- 1 **Joanne Gyorgy**, our educator par excellence. Teaching and learning is one of the key functions of a church and thanks to Joanne, teachers are recruited, trained, and supervised to help

them model their faith to children.

1 **Shirley Schock**, our church secretary with the heart of a concierge. Her door is open, her welcome is warm, and her hands reach out in helpfulness and service to all. And wow, is she proactive!

1 **Marie Mersereau**, our church sexton, has redefined what a church Sexton ought to be: one who cares for the church. Our beloved facility has found someone worthy of its care and she does it with a smile, eagerness, and warm friendliness.

1 **Cathy White**, our part-time financial secretary, tends to the payment of bills and checks in a timely, responsible, and accurate manner and knows more about computers than all the rest of us combined.

Each of the staff is highly competent, skilled, and playing at the top of his or her game. But more important, they play together as a team. We really like working together and enjoy one another's company.

An anthropologist, visiting a small village in western Africa, discovered a collection of television sets stacked high in a hut at the edge of the village. The village had been wired for electricity, so she was curious why they were not in use.

She asked the village chief *"Why don't your people use the television sets?"*

He replied, *"We have our storyteller."*

She probed further: *"Maybe so, but the television has the capacity of thousands of stories."*

"True," said the village chief, *"but our storyteller knows us."*

That could be said about your Pastor. That is one of my greatest joys: to know you and to be a part of your life. I have had the opportunity to walk with our people through valleys and tragedies, in the mountaintops of joys, and at transitions of marriage, baptisms, and death.

It is an honor to serve you and I look forward with eager anticipation as I come to know you even better.

– John Zehring

President's Annual Report 2004

Through out the Bible, God refers to ordinary people doing extraordinary things. As I reflect on the past year at Kingston Congregational Church, I am very impressed with all who work exceptionally hard to do so many extraordinary "things". As a member of a Board or Committee, it is necessary for each and every one to share the work so that KCC continues to live up to the goal of the church. We are a church full of dedication, energy and excitement and it takes many of us to accomplish what you want for your church.

This energy comes from individuals, some serving as Board and Committee chairs, many more serving as active members of these organizational units, and many, many more people just volunteering to help. This energy bundled together makes us the active, growing and challenging church that we are today. For all of the efforts of so many people, we all say "Thank You!"

During 2004, the Church Council has focused on growth, both spirit and in membership. Spiritually, the Boards have continued to reach out to hear and meet the needs of the congregation. Our church has continued to grow in membership. During the year, KCC welcomed 32 new members, including 15 confirmands. New members are quickly brought into the life of the church as they become involved in the active life at KCC.

Under Council's direction, the Boards and Committees have worked together to insure the goals of the Congregation are met. The Stewardship Committee worked diligently to provide all necessary budget education information to the congregation so that each of us is fully aware of our financial commitments. As the 2005 campaign comes to a close, it is hoped that the congregation, in considering their pledges, was better prepared to support the needs and missions of our church.

Without the dedication of the KCC staff working together, we would not have a church known for its warmth in spirit and missions. The staff works in harmony to support all the work that goes on at KCC. What would we be without the excellent and challenging sermons, the beautiful music which each week is an important part of Sunday worship? Without excellent Sunday Church School, the daily activities in our busy church office, and without a facility that needs daily upkeep? We all thank the members of our staff.

Finally, I want to thank all the board/committee chairs and members who work throughout the year to fulfill our diverse goals. Special thanks of appreciation to our staff who collectively supports our work. And to those stepping down from active participation, especially our Treasurer, Nelson Weiderman, Clerk, Linda Mendillo, Moderator, Maureen White, Nancy Holland, Chairperson of the Board of Deacons, and Amy Hubertus, chairperson of the Board of Christian Education, you all have contributed so much during the past few years, and I have enjoyed working with all of you.

As I stated at the beginning of my report, it takes ordinary, yet very special people, to do extraordinary things. God Bless.

Sue Kermes,
President, Church Council

Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee

Annual Report 2004

"The Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee holds in trust the relationship between congregation and pastor, pursuing the best interests of both equally. It supports and maintains this relationship, and helps the pastor and members of the church share ideas, hopes, dreams, and interpretations of mission. It lets the pastor know what people in the church are thinking. It provides a framework in which conflict can be dealt with creatively."

The committee met several times during 2004 to fulfill its purpose as stated above. If church members ever have issues they would like Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee to take up they can contact me or any of the other committee members at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bartels

Annual Report of the Board of Deacons January 2005

The Board of Deacons have had a very busy and successful year. We have continued to try to create programs which will help the spiritual, caring part of the community to be present.

We initiated the Pastor's Samaritan Fund which is a collection taken on Communion Sunday in special envelopes. These envelopes are placed in the pews for people who are feeling blessed and want to give back to those in need. The pastor uses these funds at his discretion to distribute to those who are in financial need due to illness or loss of job or overwhelmed with medical bills, school expenses, counseling needs, etc. Although we do not know who receives these funds, we have heard indirectly that this fund has truly been a blessing to many in our midst.

The next project was the Casserole Crew. This is a group of people who have agreed to deliver dinner to someone returning from the hospital after illness, surgery or having a baby. This wonderful group of people have worked hard to keep the food moving and have filled people's hearts as well as their stomachs by their caring and thoughtfulness.

Lastly, we have initiated a home communion program which allows people who are unable to get out to church to have communion brought to them on the first Sunday of the month. This has been very well received by the few people we have visited and there are plans to expand it in the coming year.

The Deacons are grateful for the leadership of John Zehring in all these new projects and his continued support and guidance at all our meetings. We look forward to a new year and new adventures to enhance the spiritual life of the church.

Sincerely,
Nancy Holland, Board of Deacons

Annual Report 2004
Music Director

I have continued to enjoy being organist and music director here at Kingston Congregational Church. I believe the past year has truly been a great musical and worshipful experience.

The adult and junior and youth choirs have been excellent in their dedicated contribution to Worship. The repertoire of anthems for the three choirs consists of the best available music, from the past as well as contemporary settings of musical texts. While the Senior Choir sings every Sunday, the junior and youth choir sing on the fourth Sunday of the month and on special feasts. Kristen Couturier and Andrea Richardson along with other parents have been generous and faithful in their superb work with the children. In addition to their participation at service, the children of the church performed this Spring in a Concert in the Fellowship Hall. This was the second year that this took place. I believe it was very successful. It certainly manifested the terrific talent of the children of the church.

The Concerts at the Church this year were truly enjoyable, inspired and varied.. The Concert Committee under the leadership of Delight Carpenter has done a great job in the planning and promotion of the concerts. Joe DiBiase and his choir gave a wonderful program for children as well as adults. The music was contemporary in nature and all those who came truly enjoyed the selections. Following this, was a truly beautiful program with flutist, Susan Thomas and harpist Hyun Chung Choi. The highlight of the Concert year was the Memorial Concert for Manfred Clayton. The works that were performed were Lauridsen's Magnum Mysterium, Cantique de Jean Racine by Faure, Psalm 23 and Teach me to Love by Garzilli. The second part of the program was the entire Requiem by Faure. The choir was accompanied by organ, strings, and harp.

On a personal note, I have continued to compose music for both Concert and Service. This December I have completed a new recording of music that I have written and look forward to having it heard.

In closing, I would like to thank Margaret Bradley and the music committee for their help and guidance during the year, along with Diana Geisler, and Martha Hartman who have provided very much appreciated service as choir librarians. Delight Carpenter and the Concert Committee have done a great job with the planning and success of the many Concerts. And finally to all of you, I express my gratitude once again for your support, encouragement, and inspiration.

Respectfully submitted,
Enrico Garzilli

The Kingston Congregational Church

Music Committee

Annual Report

2004

2004 certainly has been a year for concerts! It started with the February 25th event featuring duo EricX2 performing an entertaining and educational history of the Cabaret.

After church on May 9th, we were all treated to the second annual Spotlight on Talent, which beautifully showcased the artistic gifts of many of our young people.

On Sunday, April 25th Joe DiBiase's Rays of Sunshine performed songs of the Gospel and left all present with an enthusiasm for life and a sense of joy.

The concert of flute, harp, and oboe music held on June 4th was a gem. Susan Thomas, Cheryl Bishkoff, and Hyunjung Choi performed a lovely mix of solos, duets and trios with intriguing commentary about each work.

The Music Committee voted at its April 20th meeting to form a concert series subcommittee. Named the KCC Concert Committee, it is currently chaired by Delight Carpenter and is planning concerts for the 2004-2005 season and beyond.

The first concert planned and carried out by the Concert Committee was the tremendously inspiring memorial concert of November 5th, prepared and conducted by KCC Director of Music Enrico Garzilli. Dedicated to the memory of Manfred Clayton, and, indeed, all our dear ones lost this year, the concert was performed by the adult choir with two vocal soloists and accompanied by an instrumental ensemble, piano, and organ. The major work presented was the Faure *Requiem*.

The Music Committee has spent part of the year researching new choir robes to replace our current, considerably worn ones. The committee wishes to purchase them during 2005.

The committee would like to thank Kristen Couturier and Andrea Richardson for preparing and directing the children's and youth choirs, respectively again this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Dein Bradley, Chair

2004 Annual Report

Kingston Congregational Church

Church School

Our church school at KCC is currently comprised of seven classes that accommodate children from infants through eighth grade. There are approximately 100 children registered for Church School, and attendance is usually between 60 and 80 students per week.

There are 16 volunteer teachers, as well as several assistants from the Jr. High and High School classes. The Nursery School is staffed by a paid teacher and a volunteer teacher, with assistance from the Junior and Senior High students. We are still using a "Team Teaching" system, which allows the teachers flexibility in scheduling. It is always a challenge to recruit new teachers, and we never seem to have the full compliment of teachers for each class. We do however have at least two teachers for each class, and this allows the teachers to attend worship at least some of the time. We are truly blessed to have a committed, caring group of teachers, who give their time and talent, and do such a great job with the kids.

We are currently using a curriculum called "Hands- On- Bible", published by Group Publishing. This curriculum is used in Kindergarten through Grade Six. Feedback from the teachers has been quite positive for this curriculum, and the students seem to be happy with it as well.

This year, thanks again to Audrey Hallberg and Pat Cox, two of our upstairs classrooms, as well as the sitting room and bathrooms, got "makeovers," and now looks fabulous.

Vacation Bible School was not as well attended as last year, and drew a much younger group of children. The Board of Christian Education is looking at various alternatives including partnering with another church, running a scaled-down version for the younger children only, or substituting an entirely different program.

The Peace and Justice Task Force, over several Sundays in January, presented an educational program about Martin Luther King Jr., and the civil rights movement. Each class then created a display board depicting some aspect of what they had learned. These boards were displayed both at our church and at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries.

Thanks to the support of a strong Board of Christian Education (with special thanks to Amy Hubertus for being such a wonderful chairperson), the Reverend John Zehring, a wonderful group of teachers, and a great bunch of kids, Church School at KCC continues to grow and thrive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Gyorgy

Board of Christian Education Submission for Annual Report 2004

The Board of Christian Education had a wonderful year in 2004. With the help of our very active Board, many Congregational members, and our Senior Pastor, we were able to expand our existing programs and offer additional opportunities for education and fellowship to the Congregation.

Church School

In 2004, the Board developed a giving curriculum to be implemented for all grade levels. In September, the program was introduced to the children through children's sermons and classroom teaching time. Each child received "Sharing Slips" and envelopes, which they can use year-round to share their time, talent, or treasure. Parent handouts focus on how to discuss the topic of giving with children.

Adult Education

On an on-going basis, there were many opportunities for adults to further their study of the Bible or share in discussions of spirituality in 2004. The Bible Study group and the Spirituality Book group continued to meet regularly. Both are always open to new members. Their meetings are posted in the Bulletin and Spire.

John and members of our Congregation led special programs throughout the year, which were well attended. The 2004 offerings included a review of our denomination's history by Rev. R. Jack Whitehead and a discussion of the parallels between religion and science presented by Frank Lenox. Each year a program flyer is published in September and program information is also published in the Spire prior to each session.

In addition, John began his Sermon Talk Back discussions giving everyone a chance to discuss and reflect on the day's message. These are announced by John as they are scheduled.

Senior High Fellowship

The year 2004 was another banner year for our Senior Highs! This group of energetic young people, led by a group of indefatigable adults have given a tremendous amount back to KCC while exploring their own spirituality and forming lasting friendships. In 2004, Senior High's could be found providing childcare during quarterly meetings, supporting each other at school activities and sporting events, raking leaves and baking cookies for the Congregation, as well as getting together for cook-outs, URI football games, and participating in RI UCC youth events.

In 2004, the Kingston Congregational Senior High Fellowship participated in the National Youth Event, a UCC-sponsored event held every four years. Over 3600 participants gathered in Knoxville, Tennessee July 22-25 and shared their E Attitude. The gathering began with worship and communion and ended four days later with a reaffirmation of baptism. In between there was lots of music, daily worship and Bible study, 235 workshop sessions, an exhibit hall, a bookstore, sessions on UCC identity, a mission fair called the Extravaganza, and lots of time for fun, recreation, and getting to know one another.

Junior High Fellowship

Junior High Fellowship is going strong! In September 2003, Sandee Andrew presented the Board with a proposal for an integrated approach to Jr High Fellowship and Sunday School. In 2004, a core group of Junior High's are finding friendship and growing together in faith. The focus this year is on Building Right Relationships – With Each Other, Our Communities, Our Congregation, and Our Creator.

Junior High activities this past year have included: ushering, walking to brunch following church, RI UCC youth events, and service projects. When the Irons Homestead Halloween Walk was rained out, the Junior High youth brought the whole show to KCC and put on a great Halloween Walk for the Church School children - spider webs, scary costumes, and, most importantly, lots of candy!

All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are welcome!

Family Life

A big thank you to all the Family Life Committee members for their hard work in 2004 organizing many successful events, including the Mardi-Gras Pancake Supper, Progressive Dinner, Fall Festival, and Advent Workshop.

Looking Forward

In 2005, the Board will continue to support the on-going implementation of the children's giving curriculum. Other focus areas include updating youth fellowship policies and forms, supporting on-going fellowship interests, and reviewing Vacation Bible School to ensure the program meets the congregation's needs.

In closing, I would like to say a big thank you to the entire Board for the energy, enthusiasm, and thought you each bring to the Board's efforts. I will miss our wonderful repartee and delicious pot luck dinners!

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hubertus, Chair

Trustees' Annual Report 2004

The care and maintenance of our church buildings and grounds has claimed the lion's share of the Trustees' attention during 2004. We have contracted with outside contractors to do some of this work: snowplowing, roofing, carpeting, and the replacement of external doors come to mind. Much has been accomplished by working Trustees and the Sexton: extensive painting, manageable initiatives and repairs, and the ever present more routine maintenance within the buildings and on the grounds. As always we have had strong support from the congregation -- big group turnouts for the two Blue Jean Sundays, each of which yielded a full dumpster, and individual efforts on such projects as the drapes, the clock, the bell, and the pews -- we continue to be grateful for all of this help.

In other areas the Trustees handled much of the rewriting of three job descriptions involving the church staff, and were involved in the filling of the positions. We provide guidance to the new Sexton, Marie Mersereau, and are delighted with her performance. Rental agreements for the use of the church's facilities have been updated; a master list of projects has been constructed and reviewed -- it is ready for prioritization in 2005. The first independent audit of the church's financials was completed.

Lastly, the Trustees have worked throughout the year on the financial affairs of the church -- in particular we have accelerated the preparation (with the Council and the other Boards) of the preliminary budget, and have supported the important hard work of the Stewardship Committee.

We look forward to the opportunities which a growing congregation meeting in our historic buildings will present in 2005!

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ross, Chair

Membership Report

Members as of January 1, 2004 **495**

Additions

Confirmation	15
Other	17
Inactive to active	
Total Additions	32

Losses

Death	6
Transfer	3
Transfer from inactive to another church	
Total Losses	9

Members as of December 31, 2004 **518**

Baptisms 13

Marriages 3

Baptisms

Date of Baptism

Madeline Jeanne Brown	02/15/04
Kendra Coppage	03/21/04
Meaghan Crabtree	03/21/04
Alysse Cristin Hiener	03/28/04
Alexa Shaw Clegg	04/18/04
Kaitlynn Clavet	05/16/04
Melanie Fenneuff	05/09/04
Christi Saurette	05/09/04
Andrew William Menard	06/06/04
Lauren Elizabeth Hubertus	08/22/04
Joshua Austin Carpenter	07/04/04
Isabel Monika Machand	09/12/04
Roxanne Audrey Goodwin	10/24/04

Deaths

Aileen Fetter	01/03/04
Manfred Clayton	01/03/04
Nathalie E. Briggs	02/23/04
Marion C. Roehl n/m	02/09/04
Bernice Sickler	07/07/04
David Shilling	08/14/04
David Bruce Wallace	09/30/04
Rev. Werner Berge n/m	09/04
Delmae Wyllie Ferrelli	12/03/04

Transfers

Laurie Cobb	03/03/04
Debbie Rand inactive 07/17/02	
Peter Heywood	05/11/04

Nancy Jacobe 05/11/04

Marriages

Craig Urian and Kileen Stiles Munroe 06/26/04
Brian Nelson and Jamie Rodgers 10/02/04
John Flanders and Sharon Rieci 10/16/04

New Members 2004

Jean Miller 01/25/04
Delmae Ferrelli 01/25/04
Marcus Ferrelli 01/25/04
Sterling H. Iveson, Jr. 01/25/04
Mark Alemany 03/21/04
Jenny Alm 03/21/04
Valerie Antonio 03/21/04
Weston Barlow 03/21/04
Jillian Burton 03/21/04
Amanda Cole 03/21/04
Kendra Coppage 03/21/04
Meaghan Crabtree 03/21/04
Rex Eberly 03/21/04
Hilary Gothberg 03/21/04
Marah Holland 03/21/04
Jason Mueller 03/21/04
Ashley Schneck 03/21/04
Brian Thompson 03/21/04
Amanda Tierney 03/21/04
Robert Fenneuff 05/09/04
Christi Saurette 05/09/04
Bob Saurette 05/09/04
Donald Barry 10/17/04
Dianne Kinsey 10/17/04
David Kehoe 10/17/04
Craig Urian 10/17/04
Doug Kraus 10/17/04
Janet Kraus 10/17/04
Rudy Recher 10/17/04
Jan Recher 10/17/04
William C. Metz 10/17/04

Nominating Committee Report 2004

The nominees on the 2004 ballot presented by the Nominating Committee were accepted as proposed at the January 2004 Annual Meeting. All positions for officers, board, and committee members were filled and remained filled until October 2004. The nominee for that position was accepted by the Council in December. One vacant position has a nominee awaiting approval by the Council in January.

The 2005 ballot will contain 37 persons nominated for election or reelection. This number includes persons who filled mid-term vacancies indicated by an (*), those who accepted another term as allowed by the bylaws, or those who filled openings which arose at year end due to normal rotation of terms. Please note on the ballot that (1)'07 means first term ending December of 2007. Persons with an (*) remain eligible for two complete terms.

We consulted with Board chairmen before selecting members to fill openings for positions. We met once a month with the exception of July and August. At least two meetings were held in November and December.

The committee is still working to fill the 2005 ballot but anticipates a full ballot by the Annual Meeting in January. We have enjoyed working together as a committee and I thank the committee for their hard work during the year. Since their two terms have finished, Jane Clayton and Ed Carney will be leaving the committee. Their input has been valuable for the past few years and we appreciate the time and effort that they have given. We also wish to thank all who have served in 2004 and those who have agreed to be nominated for 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barth, Chairman, Jane Clayton, Ed Carney, Connie Fitzelle, George Fitzelle, Tom Holland

Investment Committee 2004 Annual Report

During 2004 the Investment Committee met May 23 and October 10. On January 1, 2004 the endowment portfolio had a market value of \$1,090,200. During the year \$43,208 of the endowment's mutual funds were sold. Along with the starting cash balance of \$8,792 the endowment contributed \$47,000 to the annual budget and \$5,000 for the audit. There were no new contributions or gifts to the endowment during 2004. The market value on December 31, 2004 is estimated to be \$1,131,269 for a gain of approximately 8.7%.

This compares unfavorably to the returns of the average S&P 500 index fund and the average balanced fund index of 10.7% and 9.3% respectively. The under performance of the endowment portfolio relative to the balanced index fund can be attributed to the timing of the sale of the mutual funds. At year end the endowment portfolio held seven mutual funds with an approximate portfolio weighting of 81% equity, 19% bonds and 0% cash. In accordance with the Investment Committee Policy Statement, using 5% of a rolling 3 year average, it was determined that \$49,000 from the endowment fund be considered to support the general operating budget in 2005. In anticipation of this we will sell a portion of the endowment mutual fund holdings to fund the support.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Geisler, Chairman

Members: Jim Aukerman, John Ferry, Richard Geisler, Audrey Hallberg, John Hatch, Harold Henn, Ken Kermes, Jim Ross, Paul Schubert and Nelson Weiderman

Women's Fellowship January 2005 KCC's Annual Report

This report reflects our activities & money donated during the year 2004. (our fiscal & calendar year is from May 1 to April 30)

Women's Fellowship Mission

The Women's Fellowship of KCC is open to all women who are members or friends of this congregation. Our purpose is: 1) To provide friendship and support and to nurture each woman's faith journey

2) To come together for education, entertainment and enjoyment

3) To donate our time, efforts and money to projects which benefit our church, our community and the world.

Activities

We have continued to have monthly meetings with successful programs, in 2004: January was a panel presentation about Faith in Everyday Life; February was crafting Heart Wreaths and sending Valentines; March was Jane Clayton—Poet and Poetry, April was Church World Service, with 26 infant, 150 School and 200 Health kits, a record number, assembled & delivered; May was the Kingston Fair Lunch & Bake Sale and June was our Ice Cream Social & Annual Meeting at Pat Cox's. September was our Potluck Supper with a presentation about Mission work in Haiti; October was about the Big Sisters RI Program; November was the Mother-Daughter Luncheon which was the Gingerbread House Decorating Extravaganza!!; December was full with the Christmas Dinner & Sweet Adelines singing; the Christmas Greens and Bulbs workshop and the Christmas Sale! A very full and active year!!

Donations

We have three fundraisers during the year: An Appeal Letter in September, the Christmas Sale and the Kingston Fair Lunch & Bake Sale in April. We donate money in January and June to local charities, a total of @\$2550, including: South County Church Women United, Women's Resource Center, Johnny Cake Center, Cane Child Development Center, South Providence Ministries & to their Youth Program, RI Community Food Bank, S County Habitat for Humanity, Seniors Helping Others, Camp Ruggles, RI UCC Conference Camperships, and Big Sisters of RI. Our two international donations were to RI UCC Mission in Haiti (\$50) and Church World Service (\$1645). In addition, we contributed to KCC Senior & Junior Highs and our 2004 "physical plant project of this old Church" was \$1500 for the new curtains and rods in Fellowship Hall. **Our grand total of donations was \$5845. WOW !!**

Thank you board members and all the many volunteers who worked so hard to make all of the above happen!! Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talents and treasures to Women's Fellowship. Please join with us for 2005's events.

Helen Rowe-Drake, President

KCC Telephone Prayer Chain Report 2004

There have been 661 requests for prayer:
304 from persons in our KCC Family
357 from friends of our KCC Family

Each person for whom we offer prayer support needs to want to receive prayer support and is asked monthly whether a corner has been turned.

Monthly requests have varied from 46 to 59 a month coming from KCC and from friends of KCC living locally, in the US, and abroad.

Each request has been given to the 21 prayer links. Five are not in KCC but asked to be links having appreciated support of the prayer chain.

Each link prays daily, at home, for those who do welcome prayer support from our prayer chain.

Blanche Shaw and Dorothy Vernstrom, both links, died during this year.

If you want to receive prayers, please contact Rev. John Zehring, the church office, or Delight Carpenter, Lou Pearson, or Carol Shilling who will contact the other prayer links.

This prayer ministry has been enriching both for those receiving prayer support and for each of the links.

Contact Rev. Zehring or Carol Shilling if you'd like to be part of this important ministry in your home.

Carol Shilling

Visiting Committee Annual Report

The Visiting Committee meets bi-monthly at the Church to report on visits and calls made to shut-ins. We send birthday cards to Church members who are 80 years or older. We also send get well and sympathy cards and notes and Easter cards.

Our annual Christmas card signing is held the first two Sundays in December during coffee hour. Signatures and notes are collected and enclosed in the Christmas cards we send to shut-ins and out-of-town friends.

We also work with the Flower Committee to help distribute flowers and poinsettias to the members we visit.

During the year the Visiting Committee has been interviewing the older members we visit. The published articles, written by members of the Visiting Committee, can be found in the *Spire*.

This year our committee included: David Barwise, Carolyn Bradley, Cheslie Carpenter, Wilma Cole, Earl Noblet, Ann Ross, Patricia Weeden, Urda Wood, and Paulette Osterman (deacon representative).

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Geisler, Chairman

2004 ANNUAL REPORT Christian Family Life Committee

We started off the year with the Mardi Gras Pancake Supper in February. The Supper was attended by over eighty hungry churchgoers, who enjoyed our hot pancakes with fruit toppings, sausage, coffee and tea. The children enjoyed creating Mardi Gras hats and masks. Thanks to Ann Lenox for coordinating the Supper.

101 participants enjoyed the Progressive Dinner in late April. A wonderful evening of fellowship was shared by all. Thanks to Debi Jennings for assisting the committee and to the Shaws and Faye Boudreaux-Bartels for a most enjoyable event.

We were forced to cancel the Beach Picnic this year to enable us to meet our budget. However, because we began charging for the Fall Festival, we ended 2004 with a budget surplus, ensuring that we will again have a Beach Picnic in 2005.

In October we again hosted a Fall Festival at the church. Although we began charging for the event, we still had a great turnout of almost 70 attendees. Activities included pumpkin decorating, scarecrow making, apple pie making, leaf rubbing, pin crafts and Halloween door hanger crafts. There were plenty of meatballs, salad, and apple crisp for all. Thanks to Marci Redinger for all her hard work in planning the event.

The Advent Workshop on the last Sunday of November was a busy event and a real success. A new craft, beaded ornaments, was very popular. Favorite activities from years past, including stamped metal ornaments, reindeer food, cookie decorating, pine cone bird feeders and crèche painting provided hours of creativity for all. Special thanks to Debi Jennings and family for coordinating the crèche painting and for tirelessly molding dozens of plaster figurines for the children to paint. As always there were forms, candles and greenery for creating Advent wreaths. Thank you to Lori Ann Hiener for overseeing the workshop.

On Saturday, December 11, in conjunction with a Peace & Justice Task Force workshop, Joanne Gyorgy, Bev Stringer and Cathy White hosted a tree trimming party for the children. The children created beautiful ornaments and hung them on our tree. They also enjoyed hot cocoa and delicious treats made by Bev Stringer. The committee was disappointed that we were unable to acquire a proper artificial tree, but was forced to borrow one for this year. We hope to have a magnificent tree for next year.

At the end of 2004, we reluctantly said goodbye to longtime committee members Dick & Loretta Shaw, and Marci Redinger. We sincerely thank them for all of their hard work and dedication over the past years. Karen Elliott, a new committee member for 2005, was gracious enough to start her term early when we needed extra hands for the Fall Festival. In addition, we welcome Cindy Dowgiallo and Kristen McGrath, who will also be joining us in 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy White, Chair

Faye Boudreaux-Bartels, Karen Elliott, Lori Ann Hiener, Kelly Jarbeau, Ann Lenox, Marci Redinger, Dick & Loretta Shaw and Beverly Stringer.

Treasurer's 2004 Annual Report

The year 2004 was a healthy financial year for the Kingston Congregational Church. While the final figures will not be known for a couple more months, it appears that we will have a modest surplus for the year. The preliminary accounting as of the middle of January shows both income and expense to be under budget. Pledge income was also under budget, but above what was pledged before the start of the year. The surplus would have been bigger had it not been for some expensive and unexpected roof repairs at the end of the year.

The financial statements of the church were audited by an outside auditor for the first time. This was accomplished over the summer and into the fall. The audit was conducted by Mark Provost, CPA, Ltd. of Warwick, RI. He found that the financial statements "...present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Kingston Congregational Church as of December 31, 2003, and the changes in its net assets and cash flows for the year then ended..." Some suggestions were made for how we account for capital property and leases, but the members can be assured that all our accounts are in order and the church is financially healthy.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelson Weideman, Treasurer

Board of Mission/Social Justice Annual Report 2004

KCC is an active participant in local and world mission needs. For instance in an impromptu mission request for the Tsunami victims the Congregation donated an estimated \$3000 on a less than average Sunday morning attendance. Bearing this spirit of thoughtful generous giving in mind the BOM/SJ wants to invigorate the Congregation's spirit of caring even more. This year the BOM/SJ will implement a year round mission theme that will incorporate other Boards and Committees.

The focus of the mission theme is to incorporate the entire Congregation in its efforts for a particular cause. KCC is well endowed with members from various backgrounds that make them unique. The mission theme will bring out this uniqueness via "time with children" and health kits just to name a few. The theme will enrich members by educating, heightening sense of awareness for issues here and abroad, and fellowship amongst the Congregation. We are here doing this together for a common good. The Board is very excited for the upcoming year in regards to its mission efforts for the Congregation.

Lauren Kim Munroe

Congregational -Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase
Report of the Cemeteries Committee
May 4, 2004

The Cemeteries Committee supervises three cemeteries: Old Fernwood and Tower Hill belong to the Society, and the Peckham Family Cemetery belonging to that family. The Tower Hill Cemetery, on the site of the first church building in the history of the Kingston Congregational Church, has, the first burial, made in 1719, 17 more in the 18th Century, 7 in the 19th Century and the last one in 1944, that of Bernon E. Helme. Although inactive since then, it is still available for use. The Peckham Family Cemetery is restricted to use by members of that family, but is cared for by our committee in accordance with an agreement made with the late Dorothy Peckham who contributed \$5,000 to our endowment for that purpose. Old Fernwood is divided into two parts: the original section was given by Elisha Reynolds Potter in 1826 for use by members of this society and of the church, and by people living *within one mile of* the church or of the cemetery. The extension of Old Fernwood, landscaped in the 1960's and put into use within the last few years, was given by Herbert J. Wells in 1927 for use by members of this Society and of the church and their families.

As usual, the cemeteries have been cleaned up in the Spring, mowed regularly during the Summer, and cleaned up again in the Fall. Edward Young continues to care for Old Fernwood, where he began service in 1970, and for the Peckham Family Cemetery in a most conscientious manner, and Scott M. Wallace has given the same quality of care to the Tower Hill Cemetery.

One continuously evident problem is the spread of lichen on the gravestones. We expect to work at eradicating this growth this summer. The road also continues to need maintenance and gravel was added in 2002 and again in April 2004. Several trees that showed evidence of severe decay have been removed in the last few years to avoid the damage that they would do to the monuments if they were brought down by a storm.

Such maintenance, ranging from mowing the grass and raking leaves and plowing snow to road repair and tree care, of course costs a substantial sum of money each year. Fortunately an endowment has been built up to provide the necessary income. As of December 31, 2003, the endowment had a market value of \$89,612.05. As expenses are bound to increase, it is the hope of the committee that major additions will be made to the endowment to provide the necessary income. In addition, the charge for lot reservations will probably have to be increased.

Our desire is to make the cemeteries in every respect places of honor to the dead and of comfort to their relatives and friends. Lots remain available in both cemeteries, with contributions to the endowment fund of \$250 a plot from members of the church and \$400 from nonmembers. Reservations may be made for future use, and a number of families have elected to have monuments placed on their lots even many years in advance of actual use, thus easing the burden on the family at a time of great sorrow.

Respectfully submitted: Cheslie Carpenter Elizabeth McNab

Richard Shaw

William D. Metz, Chairman