The Spire

From Your Pastor

April 2009

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die,
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted…
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance. **(Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)**

Jesus' life was bittersweet, like the poem from Ecclesiastes.

This April, we walk through the valley of Holy Week:
the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday…
the Last Supper, on Maundy Thursday…
the death on the cross, on Good Friday… and then
we emerge out of the valley on Sunday, the Day of Resurrection.

We cherish the Easter part. The valley of his suffering we'd just as soon neglect. Yet, to diminish the cross is to deny the ebb and flow of life's reality. For everything, there is a season and a time.

From the cross, Jesus cried out, *"It is finished."* That might sound like he just gave up, with a cry like that on his lips. But he did not. *"It is finished"* is three words in English but only one word in Greek: "*teleo,*" which is a victor's shout. *Teleo* is the cry of a person who has completed his task, the shout of joy as a winner crosses the finish line. It is the cry of a person who has won through the struggle. The word means to complete, to conclude, to accomplish, to finish, to have discharged a duty. Jesus died with a shout of triumph on his lips. His final words mean *"It is completed,"* spoken as Jesus completed the work God sent him to do.

But the beat goes on. Easter comes and God makes all things new. A short time later, Pentecost arrives, bringing with it the coming of the Holy Spirit. God is always making things new.

Even when there is change in our lives, or valleys, or seasons of what appears to be a breaking down, there will come new seasons ahead for a fresh building up, for in God's world, the best is yet to come.

May this Holy Week be for you a treasure and a metaphor for your own life's experience: Friday may be a dark day, but Sunday's coming. Hallelujah!

– John Zehring

Welcome *to new visitors and to old friends.* ***Welcome*** *to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, single people and children.* ***Welcome*** *to people of all colors, cultures, abilities, and sexual orientation, to young and old, to believers and questioners, and welcome to questioning believers.* ***Welcome*** *to all who have no church home, need strength, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. We joyfully and unconditionally welcome you. We hope you find peace and inspiration in our service.* ***YOU are welcome here!***

(Voted on and approved by the congregation January 28, 2007)

Sundays and Holy Week Services in April

April 5	**PALM SUNDAY** Communion. Leading worship will be the Rev. Bill Bartels with Tom Butcher preaching. Message: *Five Days That Changed the World.* Sermon Talk-back after worship in the Fireplace Room.
April 9	**MAUNDY THURSDAY** Supper, Communion, and Service of Tenebrae, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall
April 10	**GOOD FRIDAY** Service. Noon, Fireplace Room. Canna Falby, music. Sharon Key, preaching. John Zehring, liturgist.
April 12	**EASTER!** Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. (first service best for families). Message: *"In His Service."* Hallelujah chorus.
April 19	**Casual Sunday** (come relaxed in casual clothes). Message: *"At the Western Wall."* No choir. No church school. Activity Period for K-2. Adult Ed.: Glenn Kumekawa: "Internment of Japanese during WWII."
April 26	Message: *"What do you value?"* Quarterly meeting. Salvadore baptism.

April's Deacon of the Month is Deb Shaw.

Baptism:

William Russell Ashworth III	Parents: William and Kyle Ashworth	March 1, 2009
Riley Elizabeth Ashworth	Parents: William and Kyle Ashworth	March 1, 2009
Merryn Sinclair Foss	Parents: Britt and Meredith Foss	March 15, 2009

Congratulations to newly-elected Board leaders:

DEACONS: Chair, Deb Shaw. Secretary, Dottie Leduc
TRUSTEES: Chair, Jeff Richardson. Secretary, Laurel Ferrelli
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chair, Michelle Davis. Secretary, Jill Dumican
MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: Chair, Tina Letcher. Secretary, Britt Bell. Treasurer, Clark Bridgman.

Adult Education

SPRING: **April 19** – Second Hour, following worship
LEADER: Glenn Kumekawa.
TOPIC: The legacy and lessons learned at a time of National Crisis:
Internment of persons of Japanese Ancestry
during World War II

S. P. N. M.

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries thanks all King Cong church people who have contributed canned goods to SPNM during the past month when Louis Feinstein has matched each contribution of an item with $1. This "matching" offer continues throughout April. SO, if you have not yet brought your food for SPNM, you can do so any Sunday in April. Gifts brought to the church will be transported immediately to the SPNM office in Providence. Thanks very much for your continuing support for the needy in our capital city.

Church World Service

Thank you to all who have contributed so far. We need: pencils, blunt-tipped children's scissors, washcloths, bars of soap (bath size individually wrapped) and nail clippers. Money donations are also needed. Please make checks payable to: KCC Women's Fellowship and if possible use the envelopes marked CWS. They can be put in the collection plate or mailed to Canna Falby, 75 Purgatory Rd, Exeter, RI 02822.

The question I am asked the most: Where do the kits go? See the bulletin board for the full list and details but here's a summary:

January to September 2008:
In the United States: 6684 Emergency clean-up buckets, 7621 School Kits, 14,818 Baby Kits and 33,537 Hygiene Kits were shipped to: Alabama - the homeless in Mobile; Alaska - for flood victims in Fairbanks; Arkansas - to various towns with tornados and flooding; California - to the All Tribes American Indian Charter School; Florida - for new refugees in Miami; Illinois - for flood victims; Indiana - flooding and clean up after Hurricane Ike; Iowa - flood victims and immigrants; Louisiana - after Hurricane Gustav; Maine - flooding in Caribou; Minnesota - to the homeless; Missouri - for flood victims; New Mexico - for the homeless and use in border ministry; New York - for migrant farm workers in Moravia; Texas - flooding after hurricanes Dolly & Ike; Washington - for the homeless; West Virginia - for flood victims and Wisconsin - after spring storms and flooding.

Internationally: 975 Sewing Kits; 5400 Kids Kits; 12,780 Baby Kits; 41,160 School Kits; and 129,290 Hygiene Kits were shipped to: Bosnia; Dominican Republic; Ethiopia; Georgia; Haiti; Indonesia; Kenya; Liberia; Malawi; Moldova; Mongolia; Sierra Leone; and Zimbabwe. WOW!

– Helen Rowe Drake

"THE WORLD OF THE GENEROUS GETS LARGER AND LARGER."

Proverbs 11:24 (The Message)

CONSECRATING STEWARDS PROGRAM

Congratulations to you, the Stewards of the Kingston Congregational Church, for your generous support during the recently completed stewardship campaign:

Here are the results:

• Total Amount Pledged	$256,164
• Total Pledge Units	193
• Number of Pledge Units That Increased Their Pledge	89
• Number of Pledges from New Members	23
• Average Pledge Amount	$1,327
• Average Pledge Amount New Members	$756

Thank your for your financial commitment to the Church.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Sue Davis
Doris Findlay
Tom Heald
Paul Jacobs
Ken Kermes
Chris Little

Where is Your Treasure?
Get Personally Involved. Offer your treasure.
Multiply the resources that change lives.

That's exactly what our Sr. Highs are doing – April 11th they will be in New Orleans, helping rebuild the city. We're so proud of them! So when we read a recent very moving UCC "One Great Hour of Sharing" letter about our "treasure" (people and money both) we thought we'd like to share it with the congregation:

"When 17-year old Jeff Galasyn from Saco, Maine signed up for his third disaster recovery mission trip in New Orleans, he wasn't thinking about how your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing helped create the program that facilitated his hands-on service. His heart was in the wallboards of the home he was repairing so the family could move back in and get a new start in life.

When Chris Rose, a columnist for the Times-Picayune newspaper in New Orleans drove by that house one day and stopped to interview Jeff, Chris wasn't thinking about how your gifts to OGHS made it possible for volunteers from all over the country to stay involved in the lives of neighbors recovering from disaster. His heart was in the story Jeff told of paying more attention to the world around him, of asking hard questions, of listening more to people's stories. Chris began to look around again with new eyes and make his own life-changing commitments.

When Romka T. Lambourne, an 84-year old resident of New Orleans, read Chris' newspaper column and wrote a thank you addressed simply to "The High School in Saco, Maine," she wasn't thinking directly about your OGHS gifts. Her heart was in the gratitude she experienced in the presence of God through the commitment of these volunteers to accompany those affected by disaster.

As Rene Menard, the assistant headmaster of the high school in Saco, Maine, read Mrs. Lambourne's note in the school assembly and wrote back to her his own thanks, he wasn't thinking about how your gifts to OGHS were more than "just checks." His heart connected with the real lives that had been touched and changed.

Today, as Jeff is more aware of the world globally and more aware of people in his own community with different stories to tell, his heart continues to be touched and changed --as are the people around him.

You are part of this multi-layered story. You are personally involved in disaster recovery through your gifts to OGHS. Your treasure puts into motion these heart-wrapped connections that make God's love real in the world."

Thanks to every one of you,
Jen Collins for the Board of Missions and Social Justice

The Kingston Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

QUARTERLY MEETING
Sunday, April 26, 2009
10:45 a.m.
Church Sanctuary
Child care will be available.

Tentative Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Minutes of Annual Meeting- January 25, 2009
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Reports: Trustees, Deacons, Christian Education, Mission and Social Justice, Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship
7. President's Report
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The Kingston Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 10:50AM.
Nancy Holland was thanked for the minutes she has taken as KCC clerk.

It was M/S/P to adopt the agenda.
It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of October 26, 2008.

Treasurer's Report-Dick Geisler
The deficit for 2008 is $13,853.00 which will be covered by drawing down the Money Market account.
The endowment is down about 30%.
Fifteen percent of our income was given away to missions.
It was M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report.

Stewardship Report-Tom Heald
The Stewardship Campaign is ending. Tom thanked everyone for their response to the campaign. He thanked Ken Kermes for tracking all the numbers. There were 188 pledge units for a total of $252,600.00. Almost all the new members pledged.
The Council thanked the Stewardship Committee, Sharon Davis and Dick Geisler for all their hard work.

2009 Budget-Sharon Davis
It was M/S/P to adopt the budget.
It was M/S/P to make an amendment to the budget to increase salaries by 2 ½ percent for staff.
The motion was defeated by a voice count.
It was M/S/P to have a hand count.
The motion was defeated 46-30.
It was M/S/P to approve the budget for 2009 as presented.

Election of officers-Nominating Committee
Brad Asher thanked Bill Metz who is stepping down as church historian. He also thanked Shirley Schock for all her work. He thanked all the outgoing board members for their time and commitment and thanked all the incoming members for agreeing to serve in their positions.
Michael Salvadore and Rachel Marino were added to the ballot on the CE Board.
It was M/S/P to accept the ballot as amended.

Marcus Ferrelli-President
Marcus asked people to send him goals for the church for the next three years.
He stressed that this is a time of renewal and reflection and for new opportunities for service.

Old Business-None

New Business- Some people mentioned that their pledges were not getting properly recorded. The Financial Secretary will be asked to review this.

John Zehring gave the closing prayer.

It was M/S/P to adjourn at 11:55AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Holland – Clerk

Picture Directory

We are pleased to announce that we will be producing a new pictorial directory of our church families. A directory is a very valuable tool that helps everyone to place names with faces and enhances a sense of fellowship.

We have invited Lifetouch Church Directories to produce a Church Family Album™ for us. They produce high-quality color portraits, a professionally printed directory and provide each participating family with a complimentary portrait and a FREE Church Family Album.

Your family will be photographed using their exclusive state-of-the-art Digital Imaging Technology. What this means to you is you only have to visit the church once! Allow approximately 30-45 minutes for a variety of poses to be taken and reviewed instantly. This also allows time for you to make any portrait purchase that you may wish to make. You may purchase portraits using a check, Visa, Mastercard, Discover or Amex. There will be a nominal shipping and handling charge for mailing portraits directly to your home.

All we need to make our directory a success is you! Whether you are single, a couple, or a family with children, please help by having your sitting for the directory. Sign up at the Harvest Table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays from March 29th through May 3rd. There will be a New Directory Committee member at the table each Sunday to assist people. Submitted photos are permitted for college students, military personnel and homebound members unable to be photographed at the church.

Thank you for your support,
Andrea Richardson for the Board of Deacons

HEIFER PROJECT

A huge **THANK YOU** from the Church School children to everyone who helped them raise **$1,107.00 for the Heifer Project.** They have voted for which animals they would like Heifer International to give to impoverished families around the world. They chose: A heifer, a water buffalo, a llama, sheep, a trio of rabbits and a flock of chickens.

It is amazing how much can be accomplished with "spare change". Thanks also to Marcus Ferrelli for his great idea to have folks donate their Newport Bridge tokens – which added over $100.00 to the total.

Easter Activity Time and Nursery Coverage

9:00AM: Activity Time for grades K through Four. Nursery care will be available.

11:00AM: No church school or nursery care is provided at this service. Activity packets (crayons, coloring pages etc.) will be provided for children who attend this service.

Thank you.

I sincerely wish to thank my church family and friends at KCC for their prayers, sympathy cards, floral offerings and concerns. Your kindness and sympathy are more deeply appreciated than any words can express.

Sunny Hocutt and family of the late Rev. A. Lee Hocutt

Easter Lilies

If you would like to order an Easter lily, please fill out the form found in the March 29 or April 5 bulletins or you may pick one up in the church office. Put it in the collection plate or deliver it to the church office by Sunday, April 5th. Please note that all orders must be in by April 5th as the order will be placed by the Flower Committee the following day.

Write to Our President!
Here's an Opportunity to Act from UCC Headquarters
~ following Don Anderson's Inspiring Sermon on Immigration

– your Missions Board

On February 24th the first immigration raid of the Obama Administration took place in Bellingham, Washington. Some 28 workers in an engine manufacturing plant were arrested. Tell President Obama to stop the raids.

Raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) target people solely for being undocumented. The frequency of these raids drastically increased under the Bush Administration but now the raids must stop. ICE has forcibly entered places of employment and people's homes at all hours of the day and night, often separating families and leaving vulnerable children without protection. The vast majority of those arrested are Latinos and Latinas. Even legal residents and citizens have been swept up and deported. Tell President Obama: No more raids.

Indiscriminate raids must cease immediately and true immigration reform should be enacted that unites families, protects all workers, and allows undocumented immigrants to earn their legal status and eventual citizenship. Tell President Obama: No more raids.

For the Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant three rows of peas:
1. *Peace of mind.*
2. *Peace of heart.*
3. *Peace of soul.*

Plant four rows of squash:
1. *Squash gossip.*
2. *Squash indifference.*
3. *Squash grumbling.*
4. *Squash selfishness*

Plant three rows of lettuce:
1. *Lettuce be faithful.*
2. *Lettuce be kind.*
3. *Lettuce be patient.*

No garden is without turnips:
1. *Turnip for meeting.*
2. *Turnip for service.*
3. *Turnip to help one another.*

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:
1. *Thyme for each other.*
2. *Thyme for family.*
3. *Thyme for friends.*

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.
There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

– Author Unknown

(Submitted by Audrey Hallberg)