

The Spire

From Your Pastor

April 2010

Easter Conversations An Invitation to Talk About...

Easter Conversations is an invitation to ANYONE connected to Kingston Congregational Church to talk about ANYTHING. It is an invitation to pastoral conversation about whatever needs the light of healing and resurrection in our community of faith.

I have been here long enough to know that there are pockets of hurt and sadness and frustration and pain that are a legacy of the past, both recent and ancient. Perhaps you had a run in with a former pastor. Or maybe you were a leader in the past and got burned out and beat up by the trauma of it all. Maybe you are questioning and confused about some things that happened or have not happened. Maybe you are wondering why it's so hard for some pieces of the past to stay in the past. Or perhaps it is something else all together.

If you see yourself in any of those descriptors, then **Easter Conversations** is for you. Please sign up for one of the sessions below. I have tried to schedule multiple opportunities at varying times so that everyone who desires to can participate.

If you know someone who has stopped coming to church and may benefit from Easter Conversations, please call and invite them to come with you.

Please see the kiosk in Fellowship Hall for sign up and for more information. Or call me at 499-7752 or 783-5330 or e-mail at pliberty@kingcongchurch.org

Wednesday, April 7 at 5:00

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:00

Thursday, April 8 at 1:00

Sunday, April 11 after worship (child care available)

Thursday, April 15 at 1:00

Sunday, April 18 after worship (child care available)

Thursday, April 29, at 5:00

I look forward to sharing **Easter Conversations**...bringing healing and new life out of the shadows of the past.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Pat

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)

April's Deacon of the Month is Jim Findlay.

In Sympathy

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to the family of Elma Christopher who died on March 1st. A service was held in the sanctuary on March 17th.

Holy Week at the Kingston Congregational Church

March 28 **Palm Sunday.** 9:30 a.m.

April 1 **Maundy Thursday.** Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

April 2 **Good Friday.** The Sanctuary will be open for prayer 12:00 – 3:00 pm.

April 4 **Easter Sunrise Service** at 7:00 am at Tuckertown Park.
We will celebrate with our friends from Peace Dale Church.

Easter Services at KCC 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The 9 a.m. service is oriented to families, with a presentation by the children.

Easter Activity Time and Nursery Coverage

9:00AM: There will be an 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.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

“If you love me...feed my sheep”

The collection dates for OGHS have been rescheduled to the following: April 11th, 18th & 25th. The funds are distributed by the National UCC reaching those in need here and all over the globe. Please take a minute out of your day to visit www.ucc.org/oghs/ on-line to see how your donation will do immeasurable good.

Thank you,
KCC Board of Missions

The Quarterly Meeting
of
The Kingston Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Will be Held in the Church Sanctuary
Following the Worship Service
Child care will be available

Sunday, April 25, 2010

10:45 a.m.

Martha Hartman, Clerk

Tentative Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the January 31, 2010 Annual Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
5. President's Report
6. Old Business
 - a) Stewardship Committee Progress Report
 - b) Nominating Committee Progress Report
7. New Business
8. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The Kingston Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 31, 2010

The moderator, Tom Butcher, declared a quorum of over 45 members and called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

Handouts:

The Kingston Congregational Church UCC, Annual Report 2009, January 31, 2010.

The Kingston Congregational Church UCC, Quarterly Meeting Minutes, October 25, 2009.

The Kingston Congregational Church, UCC, Agenda, Sunday, January 31, 2010.

The Kingston Congregational Church, UCC, Treasurer's Report, 12-31-2008 to 12-31-2009.

Kingston Congregational Church, UCC, Budget Development 2010, Statement of Cash Flows.

Kingston Congregational Church, Draft Strategic Plan as of January 23, 2010.

Moved, Seconded and Passed (M/S/P) to adopt the Agenda after adding "Jim Aukerman, Planned Giving" under the heading "Treasurer's Report."

M/S/P to approve the Minutes of the October 25, 2009 Quarterly Meeting as presented after the Moderator noted that the *October 25, 2009 Quarterly Meeting Minutes*, previously mailed in the *Spire*, have been corrected by the Clerk to read under Board of Deacons: Rev. Patricia L. Liberty was approved by the Council at a Special Council Meeting held on June 30, 2009 to become our Interim Minister.

Treasurer's Report

Richard Geisler

Revenue shortfall for 2009 is mostly under *Pledges and Plate Offerings*. *Operating income* (e.g. Fund Raiser and Endowment Income) is mostly flat. Dick noted increases and decreases under items relating to staff. Staff expenses for 2009 were \$19,000 under budget. The balance in the money market and checking accounts is \$112,000. \$17,124 in these accounts is available for spending on operating expenses. This is about one and a half months of reserve. Our usual reserve is about \$20,000. As of 12-31-2009 the Endowment Balance was \$932,892, an increase of \$109,664 over last year.

M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Planned Giving

James Aukerman

Jim asked Spire Society Members, Ken and Sue Kermes, Clark Bridgman and Helen Rowe-Drake to come forward to accept certificates of recognition and appreciation for their endowment support. He also noted long standing supporters of the endowment William D. Metz, and John Ferry. He thanked Audrey and Howard Hallberg for their contribution, and noted other planned giving under a Trust. The increase in the endowment over last year is due, both to contributors and the stock market. He encouraged others to make gifts or include The Kingston Congregational Church, UCC in their will.

Stewardship

Paul Jacobs

Paul thanked the members of his committee and all those who pledged a total of \$240,000 for 2010. The pledge total in 2009 was \$256,000. Paul addressed the issue of attrition due to death or moving and stressed the need to grow our number of pledge units.

President

Marcus Ferrelli

Marcus called attention to his written report on P.4 of the Annual Report. He thanked all those who had contributed time and talent to this church, referenced the number of people on the ballot and called on everyone to give them help, time and confidence. Marcus' charge to the Congregation was (1) to grow we need more and easier communication. (2) Creativity comes from the bottom up. (3) Our future is bright because of the people here. (4) No one of us is as smart as all of us.

Moved by the Moderator, Seconded and Passed unanimously that we express our appreciation from the floor for Marcus' service as President these last three years.

KCC, UCC Annual Meeting Minutes, January 31, 2010

Pastor's Report

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty

Pat noted three different attitudes present in our church regarding interim time: (1) It should move quickly, (2) It needs to be tolerated but not prolonged, or (3) It is an opportunity for growth and change. We need to give the Search Committee a clear message about what set of skills is needed in a new Pastor.

We are in a size transition between a pastor-centered church and a program-centered church (over 300 active members). Our structure no longer fits our size. We need to sort out our structure and leadership wants and needs. In a program centered church the Council becomes the organizing and planning arm. Educational and service opportunities draw people to become members.

We are conflicted about our denominational identity and GLBT concerns and need to openly and honestly deal with these feelings. We won't solve everything in interim time but we have the resources to learn and work together. Pat urged that we all pray for strength for this community of faith. Her remarks were followed with strong applause.

Nominating Committee Report

Brad Asher

After stating that Karin Aukerman has agreed to fill the vacancy on the Nominating Committee, Brad presented the Ballot for 2010. All positions have been filled. *M/S/P to approve the Ballot for 2010 as presented.*

a) KCC Strategic Plan

Patricia Moore

Pat thanked Sharon Davis for her help in distilling wisdom from the survey and discussion groups. More ideas have been submitted in the suggestion boxes since the report was first issued. Pat described this as a Plan for Ministry--How we can take the message of God to the local and global community.

M/S/P to adopt the Strategic Plan for Ministry as proposed.

b) SCRIP

Dorothy Leduc

The SCRIP team: Nancy Corvese, Beth Curtis, Elizabeth McNab, Karen Tucker, Faye Boudreaux-Bartels, Tom Butcher, and Dorothy Leduc began the SCRIP program on November 15, 2009. Dot described the process of selling cards before church and at coffee hour. The Trustees have recommended and the Council has approved the recommendation to allocate profits from the SCRIP program as follows: 50% to the KCC Budget, 25% to local missions and 25% to a Trustee project.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the allocation of funds 50% to the KCC Budget, 25% to Local Missions and 25% to a Trustee project.

Discussion followed. Nancy Corvese stressed the potential for income growth if members increase their participation. Frank Lenox asked how much volunteer time the project needed and encouraged new volunteers to participate as needed noting the ongoing nature of the project. There was a concern about counting on this money for our operating budget. Can we be sure the program will continue as is? Claudia Smith reported that this program has been around for many years. Tom noted that the plan is for Council to review our allocation on an annual basis. There were other questions about how this money will effect current allocations to Missions and who decides on the use of the amount to local missions. It was indicated that the Board of Missions would make that recommendation.

A vote was called and the motion on the floor was Passed.

Trustee's Report: Discussion and Adoption of the 2010 Budget

Jeff Richardson

Jeff briefly reviewed the Budget Development 2010, Statement of Cash Flows and noted that this budget as proposed has a shortfall of \$14,648. The Trustees recommend approval of the budget as presented with the understanding that the Council will continue to review expenses and other income and report back to the Congregation with recommendations at the April, 2010 Quarterly Meeting.

It was Moved and Seconded to accept the 2010 budget.

Discussion followed. Claudia Smith, co-chair of the Music Committee and Margaret Bradley expressed concern that the \$3000 allocation to the Music Committee was insufficient given expenses for care and tuning of instruments, purchase of music, and compensation for guest musicians. Mark Tortolani noted several items which he felt were over funded on page 4 under STAFF and said he would not support adoption of this budget. It was noted that no amendments had been made and **there was a request to Call the Question.**

The motion to approve the 2010 Budget as presented Passed with some nays.

New Business

Report regarding the Settled Pastor

Tom Brillat

Tom commented that questions have been raised about the status of the formation of a Search Committee. He perceives that the congregation reflects two minds: (a) Let's get the show on the road; (b) We need to be deliberate. He expressed respect for Pat's experience and comments and suggested that those in group (a) reflect on the question "Do you have Pastoral needs which are not being taken care of?" Those in group (b) reflect on your own experience with jobs and personnel, and ask, "can one really predict how it will go?" Noting that the Nominating Committee reports to Council, Tom invited people interested in serving on the Search Committee to submit their names and reason for interest to the Nominating Committee during February. Tom indicated that the Nominating Committee will begin to put together a package of questions and set up an interview process.

It was Moved by Jim Findlay, and Seconded, that the Congregation endorse Tom Brillat's comments about how the Nominating Committee will proceed.

Discussion followed. Ken Kermes strongly opposed establishing a time table for a process of sorting out what we need. He noted that we *are* started and the worst mistakes are made when the process starts off too quickly. Other comments: "We need to articulate what our needs are" and "we should take our time--no deadlines."

Jim Findlay withdrew the Motion.

Discussion followed about the complexity of the process of setting up the Search Committee, and the need to first develop a profile so that we know for whom we are looking. It was noted that once a Search Committee is formed they will want to act and people might drop off if they have to wait for the groundwork to be completed. Bill Bartels noted that the Search Committee reports to Council and that the Council needs to get information from the Church.

Tom Brillat responded that he was just looking for names of people who might be interested and is also aware of interest within the Congregation that the Council begins to put the process in place. If you want to be considered for the Search Committee, speak to a member of the Nominating Committee. Jim Findlay clarified that he is in favor of an extended and slow process and it was his understanding when he made his motion that Tom's proposal would lead to this. Ken Kermes stated he supports a slow and deliberative process but does not object to getting started with the identification of a Search Committee. His objection was to the sense of a time schedule leading to pressure to move. Dave Cox spoke in favor of getting the process rolling now. Loretta Shaw spoke of her experience as a member of our last Search Committee and of the complicated process requiring a large commitment of effort and time. Bill Pacheco, also a former member of a search committee, agreed the process should be started but objected to putting a time limit on the process. Nelson Weiderman agreed that we should take time and not set deadlines. Nelson stated he was in favor of establishing goals and having a new Minister in place by 17 months after John Zehring's announcement of his retirement as our Pastor. He is in favor of getting on with the appointment of a Search Committee. In answer to other questions from the floor it was noted that the By-laws stipulate a Search Committee of 7 to 12 members and Pat's contract expires September 1, 2010 subject to renewal.

Frank Lenox asked for comments about the announcement period before the beginning of the Sunday service. During discussion, Sue Kermes stated that in the past the Deacons had suggested that all announcements from the floor be limited to those which are not in the bulletin and pertain to the activities of KCC. It was suggested that anyone mentioned in the bulletin as a contact person stand up front during the announcements and be introduced to the Congregation.

The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha E. Hartman, Clerk

Reminder

The Progressive Supper is Saturday, April 24th

Packets with your assignments will be distributed on
Easter Sunday, April 4th in Fellowship Hall

Following the 1st service.

If you are unable to pick it up then,

Please call or email Cindy Dowgiallo

783-6452/acld98@cox.net

to make other arrangements.

Walk for Shelter

Friday, April 2, 2010

Registration begins at 8:15 A.M.

Start Time 9:00 A.M.

Peace Dale Congregational Church

261 Columbia Street, Peace Dale, RI

Take a 3-mile walk to benefit the work of Welcome House of South County. You can walk as an individual or as part of a team. You can collect pledges or simply donate the registration fee (any amount) yourself. There will be a sign up sheet on the harvest table during coffee hour at church March 21 and 28. For more information, call Welcome House at 782-4770.

Think Spring. . . . THINK SCRIP

A poem from my childhood memory goes something like this: "The grass is green, the sun has ris, I wonder what my project is".

If you have a home improvement project in mind, or maybe you are preparing a summer garden; you might like to know that both Home Depot and Lowes give a rebate of 4%. Perhaps a VISA GIFT CARD which gives a rebate of 2% might be just thing to use at a favorite garden shop that is not apart of the Great Lakes Scrip Menu of vendors. VISA Gift Cards may be used anywhere a credit card is an accepted means of payment. What ever your spring projects needs may be, THINK SCRIP. Make your purchases using SCRIP CARDS.

Tend to your home garden and help the SCRIP MINITRIES GROW!!!

Watch for a new addition to the SCRIP Table. Coming Soon Payment with Credit Cards.

KCC's SCRIP Team:

Faye Boudreaux-Bartels

Tom Butcher

Nancy Corvese

Beth Curtis

Dottie Leduc

Elizabeth McNab

Dick Shaw

Karen Tucker

Peace and Justice Task Force

The Peace and Justice Task Force will be holding its Annual Interfaith Peace Service on April 11 at 3:30PM. The service lasts for about an hour with a children's program and refreshments to follow. We do hope you will be able to support us again this year as you have done in the past, by coming to this service and joining people of many faiths in promoting peace.

CE Board's 2nd Family Fun Night April 30th!

Please join the CE Board for KCC's 2nd family game night, April 30th at 6:30pm. We will have another chance to play games with one another so bring a game you like to play and a dessert/snack to share with everyone.

Planned Giving May 9th after the Worship Service In the Fireplace Room

We will discuss and answer questions about wills, trusts, annuities, retirement accounts, life insurance, and investments such as the UCC's Cornerstone Mutual Fund. Updated materials from the UCC National Office in Cleveland will be handed out. Also, we will have experts available to answer questions about "What to do When a Spouse Dies", "How to Make Memorial Gifts", the KCC Permanent Endowment, The Spire Society, etc.

SPNM

"Dine Out for Dollars" for South Providence Neighborhood Ministries at the CACTUS GRILL, 800 Allens Ave., Providence on Tuesday, March 30. If you order off the menu, 5 pm to 10 pm SPNM will receive 20% of the bill. Our program is serving 230 families weekly for food and we provide through the Youth Program our regular plus special programming for each of the spring vacation weeks, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm including meals. Go Mexican for a night and bring some friends. Thanks from all who volunteer and participate in the SPNM programs. Muchas gracias!

Publicity

"Don't hide your light under a basket" ... "If you ask them, they will come" ... are traditional maxims, proverbs of common experience ... ADAGES! In the world of Public Relations, they are the first commandment! So, if we wish to attract visitors ... new MEMBERS ... we must let folks know ... folks outside of our church community ... folks nearby ... we must publicize those things that could be of interest so that they may "test drive" THE KINGSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. Rummage Sales ... Dance Programs ... Bake Sales ... Music Programs, etc. can serve to attract visitors from outside our close-knit community. If you have an event that could serve to attract your neighbors ... your friends ... let's let them know. HOW? You could leave the information in the "Publicity" folder near the church office, or call, or fax, Earl Baker at (401) 886-9012. It's worth a try ... and, it's FREE!

White Elephant Sale Story

Ed and Dottie Leduc donated an almost new leaf shredder/chipper to KCC. He had paid \$700+ for it. At the end of the sale, just before the man was coming to pick up things left over from the sale, I asked Mark Tortolani if I could buy it for half of the sale price (\$75). Mark had made the announcement two hours earlier that goods could be purchased for half price. It hadn't been started in three years. I had a mechanic go through it for \$125. The gas, etc. had all clogged up. My son-in-law did not want it so I put it on Craig's List for \$200. Two young men with an old pickup truck came and they spoke broken English. As they were putting it on the truck, one said, "Do you know where this shredder is going?" He said he was buying as many as he could and was sending them all to Guatemala for the poor farmers to chop up their corn for the cows. As they were leaving, he shook my hand and said, "I will probably never see you again, so may God bless you and your family." As they drove away, my eyes were full of water. What a wonderful "thank you!"

Andy Cournoyer

The Weathervane

Have you been receiving KCC's weekly E-newsletter sent out on Thursdays? If you haven't, please inform the church office of your email address so you can be added to the church email list. Past issues of the Weathervane can be viewed on the church website www.kingconchurch.org.