

The Spire

From Your Pastor

April 2011

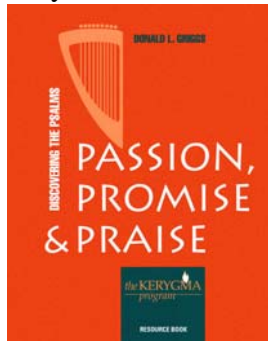
Lenten Greetings:

As the season of Lent continues, my hope and prayer is that you are discovering nuances in your journey that feed your spirit and new spiritual practices that nurture your faith.

For the first time KCC is joining Lenten disciplines with Stewardship. The entire congregation is participating in our Stewardship initiative. From our Committee, to the Coordinators, team leaders and visitors to the Telephone Team and Brunch planners to our Lenten worship focusing on being Stewards of the Mysteries...it is all part of the stewardship ministry we share. Faithful stewardship is the work of the entire church and I am grateful to all those who are providing leadership. When the time comes for YOU to participate, I hope you will warmly welcome the one who calls.

Lent is also a rich season of reflection on what it means to be followers of Jesus and how we might deepen our discipleship. Following Jesus is both a spiritual discipline and an embodied lifestyle. I am discovering the daily meditation of the Carbon Fast is a concrete way to express my faith in ways that benefit God's Creation. It also draws me to an (uncomfortable) insight about how my life style impacts other people. It is isn't often I think of how what I am doing in my little corner of the world impacts people on the other side of the planet whom I will never meet. This daily reflection reminds me of that truth. It's not too late to sign up. Go to www.macucc.org and follow the on screen prompts.

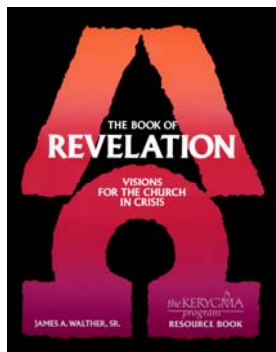
Finally, there are several study opportunities during and beyond Lent:



Passion Promise and Praise is a study of the Book of Psalms. We will gather on Sunday following worship beginning Sunday, April 10 and continuing on May 1, 15, 22 and 29.

The Book of Revelation: Visions for the Church in Crisis will begin on Monday, May 16 and continue on May 23, June 6, 13 and 27.

The cost for each course is \$16.00 and financial assistance is available, just let me know. We need at least ten people to sign up for each class, so please indicate your interest soon!



With you on the Journey, Pastor Pat

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

April's Deacon of the Month is Todd Gregory.

Baptism

Genevieve Grace Coleman Parents: David and Jennifer Coleman February 27, 2011

Remaining Noon Lenten Services 2011

All services begin at noon and are followed by a luncheon.

March 30th: Christ United Methodist Church with Rev. Patricia Liberty
April 6th: Kingston Congregational Church with Rev. Juliet Bongfeldt
April 13th: Church of the Good Shepherd Lutheran with Rev. Jennifer Phillips

Holy Week at the Kingston Congregational Church

April 17 **Palm Sunday.** 9:30 a.m.
April 21 **Maundy Thursday.**
Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
April 22 **Good Friday.**
The Sanctuary will be open for prayer 12:00 – 3:00 pm.
April 24 **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 children's presentation.

Pastor's Office Hours

As of April 1st, Pat Liberty's office hours will return to Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon and by appointment. She will be off on Tuesdays.

2011 Stewardship Appeal in Full Swing

The Stewardship Appeal is under way! This important church activity, timed with the Lenten Season, provides a meaningful opportunity for you to give of your heart and of your faith. As we prepare for a new minister, your generous response to the Stewardship Appeal improves the quality of that preparation and enables us to increase church programs.

In the past few days, you might have received a letter or you might have received a phone call from one of our Stewardship Visitors. Please prayerfully know that you make a real difference in our church's future. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

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 17, 2011

10:45 a.m.

James V. Aukerman, Acting Clerk

Agenda

1. Call to Order: Jim Aukerman (Moderator)
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report Richard Geisler
5. Search Committee Bill Bartels
6. Stewardship Committee Tom Heald
7. New Business
8. President's Report: Tom Brillat
9. Interim pastor's report Rev. Patricia Liberty
10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

We ask the Congregation to remain after adjournment of the Quarterly Meeting to act on the Proposed By-Laws Amendments.

Thank you.

The Kingston Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 30, 2011

DOCUMENTS SUPPLIED:

The KCC UCC, Annual Report 2010
The KCC UCC, Agenda, Sunday, January 30, 2011, 10:45 a.m.
The KCC UCC, Quarterly Meeting Minutes, October 31, 2010.
The KCC UCC, Special Meeting Minutes, December 5, 2010
The KCC UCC, Treasurer's Report, 12-31-2009 to 12-31-2010.
KCC UCC, Budget Development 2011, Statement of Cash Flows.
KCC Scrip Program, 2010, Financial Statement (unaudited) as of 12-31-10

James V. Aukerman, Moderator, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m.

Moved, Seconded and Passed (M/S/P) to adopt the Agenda as presented.

M/S/P to approve the Minutes of the October 31, 2010 Quarterly Meeting as presented.

M/S/P to approve the Minutes of the December 5, 2010 Special Meeting of the Congregation as presented.

Nominating Committee Report: Brad Asher

Brad thanked those who served, those who are returning to positions and those filling vacancies. There are eleven vacancies on the ballot as presented. There was brief discussion about filling the vacancies. *M/S/P that the Clerk cast one ballot for those nominated.*

Treasurer's Report - Richard Geisler Dick reviewed his *Treasurer's Report, 12-31-2009 to 12-31-2010*. As of 12/31/2010 we have a \$21,000 surplus of income over expense. The painting escrow fund has a balance of only \$6000. Dick pointed out that the Search Committee will have expenses and we need to evaluate whether the recent rate of pledge increases and gifts is sustainable. Hearing no questions from the floor, the Moderator called for the vote. *M/S/P to approve the Treasurer's Report, 12-31-2009 to 12-31-2010.*

President's Report - Tom Brillat (See also *Annual Report 2010*, pg. 2). The Search Committee has prepared a Church Profile. Progress has been made in three of the five areas of the Strategic Plan: 1. The Church Council is currently reviewing revisions to the Church Bylaws. 2. Our fiscal year has been realigned, and 3. The Boards, Committees and Pastor Pat Liberty have taken actions that have improved our role and collaborative relationships in the community. Christian Education and Membership Growth are areas for increased attention. Tom thanked the Congregation for their patience, understanding and flexibility.

Discussion: In response to a question about the opportunity for the Congregation to review the proposed changes to the Bylaws, Tom said there would be two scheduled meetings. The proposed Bylaws will be presented at the first meeting and voted on at the second. A draft of the proposed Bylaws will be distributed in advance and there will be opportunity for discussion. Our Bylaws do not address the issue of more than one slot on the ballot per person. Regarding exit interviews when people leave the church, Tom said there is nothing currently in place but we need to find a way to gather information.

Interim Pastor's Report - The Rev. Patricia L. Liberty (See also *Annual Report, 2010* pg.1). Pastor Pat noted the good work done by staff and lay leaders. The President's leadership has helped provide stability. The leadership potential in our church and the emphasis on leadership in the revised Bylaws indicate a renewal of energy in the Congregation and our increased readiness for a new Pastor. In closing, Pat thanked the Congregation for their patience and for their offers of transportation, food, prayer, and encouragement while she has been on crutches.

OLD BUSINESS

- o **Search Committee Report - Bill Bartels, Chair.** The Church Council has approved the completed KCC Church Profile. The Job Description is nearly ready and these documents will be available for members to read in the Church Office. Chuck Barnes reports that our ad for the position is now out. We may begin to receive Candidate Profiles within a month. The Search Committee is planning how to efficiently evaluate these profiles. Our Church Profile will be sent to those individuals selected by the Search Committee for consideration. The salary range is within RICUCC Conference Guidelines but may need adjustment.
- o **Scrip Program Update - Tom Butcher.** Tom thanked the Congregation for it's support and the Committee members by name for their efforts. He referenced the Scrip Financial Statement in the Annual Report. Total profit for 2010 was \$7,851. The goal for 2011 is \$10,000. Tom presented a check for \$1964 to Doris Findlay co-chair, with Sarah Simeone, of the Board of Mission and Social Justice. Doris, in turn, presented the check to Deedra Durocher, Board President, South County Habitat for Humanity, who graciously accepted our donation.
- o **Stewardship Committee re: Program Change - Tom Heald.** There was no Fall 2010 Stewardship Campaign. In conjunction with our new calendar year, the committee plans a Winter-Spring event. The plan is a secret at this time. The campaign theme is, "Creating our future with compassion and certainty." There will be a working Chair and an honorary Chair. The campaign kick-off will be the announcement of the selection of the campaign logo.
- o **Christian Education Update - Michelle Davis, Chair.** The Sunday School Program is running smoothly. Attendance has increased, and the teachers (named in the Annual Report) don't miss a Sunday. Pastor Pat has provided church specific Safe Church training for all teachers. The Board is updating the Safe Church Policy. There are "roamers" each Sunday who make sure that teachers' and students' questions/requests etc. are addressed. New curriculum is being considered for next year. The Christmas Pageant was presented as usual. Enthusiastic applause followed Michelle's report.

NEW BUSINESS - None

DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2011 BUDGET

Staff expenses: Total Staff Expenses equal \$192,000. This represents a Pastor expense of \$114,000 and other staff at a 5% decrease from their salary of last year. The new budget year is July 1 to June 30. The church designates the amount for the Pastor's housing allowance. The Christian Ed. Board will continue the current program for now until Church Council makes a plan for a new CE Director. Without further funding from the Congregation we will probably not be able to provide the same summer program for the children that we have had in the past. A member urged the congregation to step up this year and insist we do have a CE Director. There will be sign up sheets for people to volunteer to help this summer. Pastor Pat will provide Safe Church training for those volunteers as needed. Cathy White is continuing as Financial Secretary.

M/S/P that the proposed Budget for 2011 be adopted as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. with prayer offered by Pastor Pat.

*Respectfully submitted,
Martha E. Hartman, Clerk*

DON'T FORGET SCRIP DURING SPRING PLANNING!

EASTER

MOTHER'S DAY

BUY AHEAD AT THE SCRIP TABLE AND SUPPORT KCC MINISTRIES

*SAME DAY CARDS ALWAYS AVAILABLE—DAVE'S, BELMONT, TJMAXX,
STOP & SHOP, SHAW'S, CVS, RITE AID AND MORE
COME AND CHAT WITH US!*

Food Donations Collected on Communion Sundays

Please continue bringing non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of each month. April 3rd donations will go to the Jonnycake Center. Our generous giving in February was greatly needed and appreciated!

Thank you from the Board of Missions.

S. P. N. M.

KCC 8th graders visited South Providence Neighborhood Ministries with Sue Macy, Doris Findlay and Karen McCurdy on March 12th. After considering the biblical basis for missions we heard more details about the food and nutrition program plus the daily "Louie's Place" for youth where the proceeds from the Jr. High Rose Sale will be spent. Then all the youth participated in the "Stop, Rethink It", a program researched, designed, written and presented by the SPNM team. We hope in the future we at KCC can host the Providence teens to bring issues like bullying, dating, relationships, cyber bullying, conflict resolution, incidental violence, crime and prejudice to our children and youth. The multi media made it a fun and educational experience. One KCC member said it makes it clear that we are all alike and face the same things to work out.

From KCC member Alex Kleckner:

"Hello Mrs. Findlay, What I enjoyed about the trip was that it gave me an interesting point of view on poverty stricken areas around our cities. I think that this trip was definitely worthwhile because it was not only enjoyable because of the people but informative and interesting. The people that were there were very, very nice and I had fun with them. Also, the trip made me want to become more active for charities and non profit organizations because to see and hear about those that are less fortunate made me want to help as much as possible. I would definitely recommend this for future generations."

Environmental Task Force Movie Night

"Carbon Nation" is a very interesting movie about our dependence on Carbon based fuels, but is also very positive. It includes real solutions available using renewable energy and I highly recommend it as one of the best I've seen. Please join the Environmental task Force for a viewing of "Carbon Nation" on Friday, April 15th at 7PM.

Good Friday Walk for Shelter

The annual Good Friday Walk for Shelter (a 5k loop around Peace Dale to benefit Welcome House) will be held this year on Friday, April 22nd. It is always a fun event, good exercise and raises money. Bring your family members and friends as many of you did last year and get friends and relatives to support you. The Kick-off begins at Peace Dale Congregational Church at 8:30 am and the Walk begins at 9:00 am. We hope to have applications available at the Harvest Table in the weeks ahead.

Children's Easter Plants

Daffodils and tulips will again be distributed to KCC's children on Easter Sunday. This gift is made possible from a fund created by Clarice Metz. During the fifties her children enjoyed this church tradition of receiving flowers. The spring flowers were planted in front of their home's stone wall to bloom for many years. Clarice loved the look of joy as each child chose a plant.

Progressive Dinner

The Family Life Committee invites you to join an enjoyable evening of fun and fellowship – Progressive Dinner will be held **Saturday, May 7th** from 5 pm to 10 pm. You'll start the evening with appetizers at 5 pm, salad and bread at another home, entrée at another home, all followed by dessert back at church. This is a memorable annual event! Sign up to host a course in your home or to make a dessert and set up or clean up Fellowship Hall after church March 27 and April 3 or by calling Mary Daly at 401-789-4444.

Dear Friends,

March 21, 2011

As we enter the Lenten and spring season we pause. We are mindful of sacrifice but also prepare for new life and beginnings.

We have all suffered great losses at some point in our lives. Our lives were altered forever. There are no words, no rules, for the healing journey. Yes, we move on. Yet there are times that we feel the somberness as if the loss was only seconds old.

We are continually reminded that we are a family of faith. Our love with the gift of memory strengthens the purpose of Mellissa's life.

God's grace is ever present.

Our family is forever grateful for your continual support through prayers, cards, books, quiet walks and visits. We appreciate your memorial gifts including the Mellissa memorial stain glass window. The window depicts Mellissa, an angel draped in purple, holding the hand of a young boy. Installed last week in time to celebrate Nicole's confirmation, we were struck by the angel's face representing Mellissa.

With appreciation, Peace be with you. Happy Easter.

Lee, Sandee, Ashley, Chelsea and Nicole



Tulips and Daffodils for Easter

Anyone who would like to give an Easter Tulip or Daffodil in memory of a loved one is requested to complete the form on the reverse side.

Please return this form with your payment to the church office or place in collection plate by April 12th. Please make checks payable to KCC with memo marked "Flower Committee".

The cost of your Easter plant is \$15.
Thank you!

Given by: _____

I would like to purchase:

_____ Tulip Plant(s) @ \$ 15.00

for a total amount of \$ _____

_____ Daffodil Plant(s) @ \$15.00

for a total amount of \$ _____

Please choose one sentiment per plant:

“ In memory of _____
_____ ”

or

“In celebration of _____
_____ ”

or

“In thanksgiving of _____
_____ ”

Please check one:

- I would like to take my plant following the second Easter Sunday service
- I would like to pick up my plant on the Tuesday, April 26th following Easter Service
- I would like to donate my plant to a shut-in