The Spire

From Your Pastor

February 2007

Why I included my church in my will.

I remember the day my mother told me she was going to her attorney to update her will. I encouraged her to include her church in her will. She was reluctant, because she wanted to leave everything to my brother and me. Yet, her church had been like her second family. For decades, it was her source of friendships and comfort, volunteer service and strength. As we discussed it, she became gleeful at the thought that she could give back to this congregation that had meant so much throughout her life.

Recently I updated my will and included my church in my will, as did my wife Donna, bequeathing a percentage of our estate. We did so as an extension of our giving in life. Currently we give a portion of our income. Why not also give God a portion of everything we own and have enjoyed? Our children will not suffer. They will still get a major share, as well as the satisfaction of knowing that their parents can support in perpetuity our family of faith who mean so much to us.

I have another reason. As Pastor, I have seen the impact a gift by bequest can make.

- I have witnessed how the extra resources can expand program and staff, improve facilities, enrich the quality of a congregation's life, and build endowment to provide ongoing income.
- I have witnessed gifts by will that saved the day at a time when congregations were hurting, helping them to weather the storms.
- I've seen churches ugly from the ravages of time and deferred maintenance able to paint and restore themselves only because they received a gift from a will.

I've seen enough to know that when people remember their church in their will, it can lead the church to have a healthier, stronger, and more vital future. I also observed how deeply grateful a congregation feels to the one who made such a gift. What a great way to leave more behind than an empty pew!

The ideal way to fund a church would be for the endowment to provide for the physical plant and for the people to provide for the program, mission giving and staff. If that happened, a church would have a strong, healthy, and vital future without the constant financial worry of an expensive, aging facility. A church cannot have too much endowment – it can only have too small a mission, for the needs to be served are great.

Philosopher D. Elton Trueblood wrote:
"A person has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he PLANTS SHADE TREES under which he knows full well he will never sit."

We will not enjoy the shade of the trees we plant by including our church in our wills. But we will make a difference for generations to come, helping to provide for our church in perpetuity out of the abundance with which God has blessed us. I invite you to consider joining me in remembering your church in your will.

– John Zehring

On February 25, KCC member and attorney Jim Aukerman will lead a Second Hour Program following worship on Wills and Planned Gifts.

Sundays in February

February 4: Communion. Installation of Board and Committee members.
Message: *"Finding the happiness you want."* Sermon Talk-back following worship.

February 11: Preacher: The Rev. Delle McCormick. Mr. Zehring on study week leave.
Emig Lecture (see article in this issue).

February 18: Message: *"You have the tools."* Presidents' Day weekend.

February 25: First Sunday in Lent. Message: *"How to make good decisions, with God's help*."
Sermon Talk-back following worship.
Second Hour Program: Attorney Jim Aukerman, on Wills and Planned Gifts.

February's Deacon of the Month is Paulette Osterman.

Baptism:

Nolan Richard Urian Parents: R. Craig and Kileen Urian January 7, 2007

In Sympathy

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to the family of Lucile Votta who died on December 20th. A service was held in the sanctuary on December 28th.

Confirmation Classes

5 p.m. in the Fireplace Room

February 4: *How to get the most out of worship*. Leaders: Enrico Garzilli and John Zehring.

February 25: *Top Ten Things you should know about the Bible.* Leader: John Zehring

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February ALL BOARDS MEETING

February 21, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

In February, in lieu of regularly scheduled Board meetings, ALL BOARDS will meet for a plenary session in the Sanctuary for a charge from the Senior Pastor and our new President, Marcus Ferrelli. Then, each Board will meet individually.

Lent

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 21. Local churches are considering hosting a Wednesday Lenten Service and Luncheon at noon, beginning February 28. Watch information in the Sunday bulletin for details.

Emig Lecturer

The Missions Board and the Peace and Justice Task Force has invited the Rev. Delle McCormick from BorderLinks to be the 2007 Emig Lecturer on **February 11, 2007**. She will be preaching during the service and have a sermon talk back in the Fireplace Room at 10:45AM. At noon there will be a soup and salad lunch. All are cordially welcome and invited to bring bread and/or dessert to share.

The Rev. Delle McCormick comes to us with a wealth of experience to share. She currently heads "BorderLinks," a bi-national non-profit organization in Tucson, AZ that offers educational seminars along the US/Mexico border focusing on the issues of global economics and immigration. In addition, BorderLinks has developed projects to respond directly to community needs in the borderlands, including a day care center and leadership training on both sides of the border.

She has also been a minister at Barrington UCC Church, and worked in Mexico – first as Pastor and Director of the Cuernavaca Center for Intercultural Dialog on Development (CCIDD) and later as Minister and Missionary in partnership with Common Global Ministries in Chiapas.

On February 10, Rev. Delle McCormick will present a different program at Barrington Congregational Church entitled "**Immigration: The Human Face of Global Economics.**" It will begin at 7 p.m. and be preceded by a potluck dinner at 5:30. Please call Helen Schall at 245-4724 or the Barrington Church office at 246-0111 if you plan to attend the potluck.

Peace Service

The Peace and Justice Task Force invites you to participate in our **Community Interfaith Peace Vigil on March 11 at 4 p.m. at Kingston Congregational Church.** We still feel that our yearly peace service at about the time the Iraq war began is one thing that we can all do to remember those who have given their lives in wartime and to hope for a better world. Once again each faith community will light a candle and say a prayer of peace from their faith tradition, and we will each light a candle to remember one fallen soldier from our small area of the world.

Individuals and families are invited to participate; there will be separate activities for younger children.

Thanks very much for your participation. The Peace and Justice Task Force

S. P. N. M.

As Judy Scott continues her pursuit of a pastorate in the United Church of Christ we send special thanks and blessings to her for her interim directorship at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. Judy has brought strong Christian commitment and preaching, energy, negotiating and organizing skills as well as patience, new ideas and great positive relationships to the group and the community. She is well respected by all who have been working with her. We hate to say goodbye but know that she wishes to pastor a church rather than a neighborhood ministry. We wish her well as she completes her work in early February. Our new director, Nancy Nobert, begins work on February 1st. She will be introduced in the next newsletter.

Wes Smith, Board Pres. and Doris Findlay, Past Pres.

Please mark your calendar for the Annual Benefit Choir Concert of SPNM on Sunday, March 18th at 4 pm at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Ave., Cranston. Donations of dollars and canned goods will be accepted. If you could be a sponsor for the event, please call Linda Mendillo (789-0937) or Doris Findlay (783-2254).

Steve and Joyce Desposito spoke to the congregation for "Mission Moment" on January 21st about the Peace Alliance. Below is a summary write-up explaining this initiative to establish a Department of Peace. If you would like further information and/or would like to support this endeavor, please visit www.ThePeaceAlliance.org.

Summary
RI Peace Alliance Campaign

The following represents a brief summary of the bill soon to be before both the House and Senate. It provides the most basic talking points enclosed in the bill. For a complete understanding of the initiative you are directed to the website www.ThePeaceAlliance.org.

The bill is known as H.R.3760 in the House of Representatives and it is referred to as S.1756 in the U.S. Senate. There are currently 60 committed co-sponsors in the House of Representatives.

The primary function of a United States Department of Peace will be to research, facilitate and articulate non-violent solutions to domestic and international conflict.

The Benefits: International

The Department of Peace will:

Advise the President, the Secretaries of Defense and State and others on the root cause of violence around the world.

Support the military by providing insightful cultural and ethnic information education and technology as well as offer the practical skills associated with conflict resolution among adversaries. This would include but not be limited to the training of civilian peacekeepers.

The Benefits: Domestic

Develop educational programs promoting conflict resolution and peer mediation for school age children.

Provide violence prevention programs that address domestic violence, gang violence and drug related violence.

Provide support to local municipalities to combat violence and violence related issues at the local level.

Additional Function: Create and manage the U. S Peace Academy

The Department of Peace will create and manage the U. S. Academy of Peace which will be dedicated to research and teaching the most advanced techniques for the amelioration of violence and the promotion of conflict resolution.

Habitat Pins

Celebrate Valentine's Day, spring, and Presidents' Day with an attractive Habitat pin. Pins will be on sale Sunday, February 4th following the worship service for $15 each. Please make checks payable to South County Habitat.

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

You don't need to go to New Orleans to experience Mardi Gras! Join the Family Life Committee for our Mardi Gras Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 20th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Celebrate Fat Tuesday with luscious fruit and whipped cream-topped pancakes, King Cakes, New Orleans music, and Mardi Gras crafts for the kids! Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler!

Progressive Dinner Update

Mark your calendars! The 2007 KCC Progressive Dinner will take place on April 21th from 5:00 to 10:00 pm. The Family Life committee is in the process of creating this year's menu and would like your input. If you have any favorite recipes for a long-cooking (3+ hours) entrée, please leave it in the Family Life folder outside the Secretary's Office.

KCC Music Series 2007

DUETTE ELYSIENNE
Hyunjung Choi, harp and Susan Thomas, flute
Sunday, February 18, 2007, 3 PM

Hyunjung and Susan are outstanding musicians and are well-known to many people in the church and community. They performed at the Kingston Congregational Church in 2002 and 2004. By popular request they have been invited to return. Once again we will have the privilege of listening to the beautiful sounds of the harp and the glorious tones of the flute played by these artists. Reception following.

This concert will be in honor of Jane Gyatt Clayton who died, August 2 2006. Jane loved music and enjoyed singing in the KCC Choir for many years.

The Three Tenors of Rhode Island
Bradford Logan, Ronald Rathier, & Noel Espiritu Velasco
Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, accompanist

Saturday, March 17, 2007 at 8 PM

Popular opera classics and show tunes

Individual Tickets $15.00
(401)783-5330 Email: kcc@highstream.net

Church School News

Christmas Pageant

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Family Service on Christmas Eve. The young people who took part in this year's service did a really wonderful job, and made this service a joyful experience for all who attended. Participants this year were:

THE PROMISE OF A SAVIOR:	Casey Farrell
NARRATOR:	Stephanie Couturier
CHILD:	Ben and Nate Hubertus
MARY:	Kayla McMahon
JOSEPH:	Alex Kleckner
SHEPHERD 1:	Sean Farrell
SHEPHERD 2:	Kyle Farrell
SHEPHERD 3:	Brendan Dumican
KING 1:	Catherine Tierney
KING 2:	Chris Lenox
KING 3:	Scott Washburn
HERALD ANGEL:	Kara Bissonnette
ANGELS:	Junior Choir

My special thanks go to Mike Couturier for his help "backstage" and to Phyllis Whitehead who did a wonderful job with the music.

Fourth Grade Bible Presentation

On January 21st, our Fourth Grade Church School Students were presented with Bibles during the Worship Service. This year their teachers are Rebecca Harlow and Steve Clegg. The Students receiving Bibles were:
Kara Bissonnette, Alex Kleckner, Byoun wan Lee, Tai Marino, Emma Pelton, Matthew Sheehy, Kristen Karpowicz, Jackie Karpowicz, Jarid Smith, Luke Nelson, and Ethan Bowe.

Heifer Project

Start saving your loose change! The Church School children will be collecting "spare change" for Heifer Project International beginning on March 4th. They will collect nickels, dimes, quarters and then dollars on each successive Sunday until March 25th. Last year we had enough for a heifer, a llama, <u>and</u> chickens! With your help we will do even better this year.

Thank you!

A hearty "thank you" to all the people who signed the greeting for "a blessed Christmas and a year filled with happiness." How wonderful it is to read all your names and renew memories. We are well and quite busy. Sam is occupied with the client support program of Compassion and Choices, a national organization dealing with dignity in dying; he also visits retirees who live in eastern CT for the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ. Laurie's ministry to people in prison continues to be ever more challenging – and rewarding. Our best wishes to all for renewing gifts of grace and peace in your lives and the world 2007.

Laurie Etter and Sam Fogal