

The Spire

From Your Pastor

February 2012

From the Search Committee

Dear Members and Friends of Kingston Congregational Church,

After over a year and a half of hard work and prayerful consideration by your search committee, we are thrilled to be able to announce to you that we have a candidate, the Rev. Dr. L. Weldon Palmer, to recommend for your consideration as the next pastor of Kingston Congregational Church. We have sent out a mailing to members and friends in which we provide answers to some important questions, introduce you to the candidate, explain the process we used, and why we think he is the right person to be our next pastor. We will be happy to answer any additional questions you might have.

There will be an opportunity to meet Weldon and his family on Saturday, February 4 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The candidating Sunday will be the next day, February 5. Rev. Palmer will lead us in worship that morning. After the service Rev. Palmer will leave and we will hold the special congregational meeting and vote on whether to call Rev. Palmer as our Pastor.

For now, we remind you of the pledge we made to you - that we would work together to find and recommend to you the person we believe to be the best pastoral candidate for our church as a whole at this particular point in its history. In recommending Rev. Palmer for your consideration we believe, firmly and unanimously, that we have fulfilled that pledge.

With gratitude for your patience and trust,

The Pastoral Search Committee,

Bill Bartels, Chair; Margaret Bradley, Lori Ann Hiener, Paul Jacobs, Sue Macy, Angelo Mendillo, Frank Osterman, Ernie Torres, Vickie Wallace

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

February's Deacon of the Month is Linda Mendillo.

In Sympathy

The congregation extends deepest condolences to Connie Pike and family on the death of her husband, Jim Pike, who died in January.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Craig and Kileen Urian on the birth of their baby, Vivian Munroe Urian born on January 18th. Congratulations also to grandparents Kevin and Margaret Munroe.

Stewardship

Preparations for Kingston Congregational Church's 2012 Stewardship Season are quietly under way, inspired by the theme, "Giving from a Grateful Heart". You will hear more about the wonderful Season of Stewardship in the coming weeks. We gratefully report to you the people who enthusiastically stepped forward to take leadership positions in this year's Stewardship process for the glory of God and our faith community.

Stewardship Campaign Leadership Team

Interim Minister	Rev. Patricia Liberty
Honorary Chairs	Linda and Angelo Mendillo
Working Chairs	Karin Aukerman and Ann Lenox
Visitation Co-chairs	Sue Kermes and Steve Davis
Team Captains	Tracy Heffron, Jean Miller, Jim Ross, Paul Schubert
Telephone Committee	Jane Skogley, Chair
Hospitality Co-chairs	Nancy Ross and Loretta Shaw (March 4 training event) Sue Buntz and Sharon Davis (March 11 Church Brunch)
Treasurer	Ken Kermes
Office Team	Shirley Schock and Cathy White

Steering Committee

David Cann, Chairman of the Board of Stewardship		
Karin Aukerman	Paul Jacobs	Rev. Patricia Liberty
Clark Bridgman	Ken Kermes	Chris Little
Steve Davis	Sue Kermes	
Tom Heald	Ann Lenox	

You are invited to the March 11 Stewardship Brunch!

Sue Buntz and Sharon Davis have a brunch planned for families and friends of KCC following church on Sunday, March 11, in Fellowship Hall. Child care for children up to age 6 will be provided. Linda and Angelo Mendillo, Honorary Co-chairs of the 2012 Stewardship Campaign, will share insights about their faith, their church experience and their spiritual journey with God. Since seating is limited, please rsvp by March 4 to Jane Skogley (294-2845) if you plan to attend.

Blanket Sunday

Dear Church Members,

February 5, 2012 is Blanket Sunday. How fortunate are those of us who have heated homes and snuggly blankets to keep us warm. Could we think of those we perhaps know and those we read about in the United States and throughout the world who could use a blanket to keep them warm and snuggly when tragedy strikes? Over the years members of Kingston Congregational Church have generously donated to the Blankets+ Program and made a real difference to people here in the U.S., Haiti and as far away as Japan. By joining some 8,000 other congregations and groups, we are able to reach out and comfort those in crises. For just \$5 we can give a blanket and with our partnership with Church World Service make a difference in someone's life. Many years ago, when I lived in Turkey, I saw first hand that blankets were needed immediately after earthquakes. Your donations on Blanket+ Sunday will be greatly appreciated.

C. Elizabeth Candas and Your Board of Missions

February Emig Lecture with Teny Gross

The Board of Missions is excited to announce that this year's Emig Lecture will be given by Teny O. Gross, Executive Director of the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence in Providence. The Institute is a pioneering organization that teaches the principles and practices of nonviolence locally, nationally and internationally. Its Nonviolence Streetworkers Program is widely recognized for stemming gang violence. Teny is the recipient of an Institute of Global Leadership Alumni Award from Tufts University where he earned his B.F.A. From Harvard he received an M.T.S. degree and a fellowship in Strategic Perspective in Nonprofit Management from the Business School. Earlier Teny had been a Program Coordinator for the Ella J. Baker House Youth Focused Community Initiative, a participant in the National Ten-Point Coalition, and a Senior Streetworker for the City of Boston. He is a veteran of the Israeli Defense Force.

February 12, 2012, Teny will be speaking from the pulpit on Sunday during the service and will also give a talk in the Fireplace Room afterward. Please join us.



The Board of Music would like to profusely thank all who performed, assisted with, bought tickets for, and/or donated gift baskets to make the first annual Holiday Music Festival a rousing success. Do you have favorite hymns that you would like to hear at KCC on Sunday? During February, the board will poll the Congregation and compile a list of the most popular to assist the current Pastor and/or a new Pastor in choosing hymns that resonate with the Congregation. As always, if you have particular sacred music that you would like to hear, please let any Music Board member know.

FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00/adults, \$3.00/children 5-12, under 5 free, Max \$20/family

Scrip 2012

HEALTH

Nike Dick's GMC REI LLBEAN Athleta

LOVE

The Body Shop Carnival Cruises Hyatt Hotels

Be good to yourself.

Be good to the one you love.

Support KCC Ministries.

Crèche in Church Sanctuary

The crèche placed in the front of the church sanctuary during Christmas is a gift from Jane Skogley. The hand carved wooden figures were bought by her uncle, Wallace Miller in the 1940's in Austria where he was living at the time. When he returned to the USA he made the stable out of old boxes. Jane inherited it when he downsized and moved to an apartment. Her family enjoyed it for many years and is happy that it now has a home at Kingston Congregational Church.

Women's Fellowship for 2012

There is no meeting in February.

Our **next meeting** is Monday, March 5th at 7 pm in the Fireplace Room.

Jim Buxton will tell us about his trip to Qatar and Bahrain.

Another year and it is time for **Church World Service!!**

We will have several Sundays in February with announcements and envelopes available for donations.

Please mark your calendars for April 17 or 18, 10-12 am in Fellowship Hall to help box up the kits.

Our goal: 30 baby kits, 150 school kits, and 150 Hygiene kits.

If you would rather shop than donate money, we need:

Bars of soap – bath size, each wrapped

Nail Clippers – medium to large size

Washcloths – any type

#2 Pencils

Help Women's Fellowship so that we might help others!

Make checks payable to: KCC Women's Fellowship.

Mail to: Canna Falby, 75 Purgatory Rd, Exeter, RI 02822 or use envelopes marked CWS and put in the offering plate or mail!

Remember: Your entire donation is used for Church World Service and is totally tax deductible but will not show up on your church account as Women's Fellowship money is separate.

Middle School Fellowship

Here are details of the Tubing for February 5th:

1. If the weather doesn't cooperate we will still do some activity so plan on February 5th no matter what for a fellowship event.
2. We will plan to be in the 12:00 pm hour for tubing at Yawgoo.
3. This means meeting me before church service in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 to complete the Yawgoo release and give me your money (\$12 each person).
4. I will go over to Yawgoo at 9:30 when they open, pay, give them our releases and get our reservations/tickets in for the noon time slot.
5. We will leave immediately after church for Yawgoo. Pack ski clothes and a simple lunch to eat before tubing. There are picnic tables in the small cabin.
6. Yawgoo has a great website to explain their tubing operation.
7. Parking is above the normal parking lot.
8. Tubing lasts 1 hour.

Any questions: call or email me.

My hope is to make this a family event so families get to know each other in a fun and healthy way.

I hope by doing this at noon I won't be interfering in Super Bowl viewing in any way.

Thanks,
Sue Macy
294-6513

This from Helmut and Roseanne Gross of Naples, FL:

We celebrated our 40th anniversary this year with a quick trip to Newport to visit Castle Hill, where we had our wedding reception. It was awesome! The most wonderful moment was on November 27, our anniversary. We went to services at the Kingston Congregational Church and announced that 40 years ago today we were married in this very church. The congregation was so happy for us. It was a wonderful day. Our best to all.