

The Spire

From Your Pastor

January 2012

Warm greetings to you all in this New Year. I look forward to sharing ministry with you in these days.

In worship, this is the year of Mark's gospel. Written in the mid part of the first century C. E Mark has a unique perspective on the times and on the emerging community that would become the church.

Lectionary at lunch resumes on Wednesday, January 11th at noon in my office and I hope you will join us. Each week we explore all the lectionary texts and look for common themes that will strengthen our life together.

And we have a lot of laughs.

We also continue our discussion of Marcus Borg's book "Speaking Christian" on the third Thursday, January 19th from 5:00 to 6:30. It is a lively look at the language of our faith and how we can reclaim central tenets of our faith for our time.

If you have ever cringed at words like "salvation" and "born again" this discussion is for you. Join us in the Fireplace Room.

I hope this New Year will be a time for us to commit to studying and growing in our faith. Each week our children go off to church school to learn and grow. We can follow their example and join them in the lifelong joyful task of learning.

See you in church and other places.

Pastor Pat

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

January's Deacon of the Month is Craig Urian.

In Sympathy

The congregation extends deepest condolences to the family of John Ferry who died on November 23rd. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on December 18th.

The congregation also expresses deepest condolences to the family of Jean Swann who died in California on November 29th. Burial will be private in Old Fernwood Cemetery.

The congregation also expresses deepest condolences to the family of Robert Miller who died on December 11th in New Hampshire.

**"Giving from a Grateful Heart"
Theme of 2012 Stewardship Campaign**

Due to the success of last year's logo contest, the Board of Stewardship announces a contest for the upcoming 2012 Stewardship Campaign. The logo will provide the visual for the theme and will be used on the KCC Website and in print materials.

Contest entries can be multicolored or in black and white, no larger than 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Entries are due Saturday, January 21 to the Church Office or by email to karinaukerman@verizon.net.

The logo contest winner will be announced at Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, January 29.

***2012 SCRIP
To the Fellowship of KCC***

YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH SCRIP.

*Heartfelt thanks for your support.
Peace*

The Winter Congregational 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, January 22, 2011

10:45 a.m.

Nancy Holland, Clerk

Agenda

1. Call to Order Jim Aukerman (Moderator)
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the October Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report Richard Geisler
5. Search Committee Report Bill Bartels
6. Reports of Boards and Committees
Pursuant to the New By-laws
7. New Business
8. President's Report Tom Brillat
9. Interim Pastor's Report Rev. Patricia Liberty
10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The Kingston Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Sunday, October 23, 2011

Documents Presented:

KCC Annual Meeting minutes

KCC Quarterly Meeting Agenda, October 23, 2011

KCC Treasurer's Report

Call to Order- Jim Aukerman called the meeting to order at 10:50AM and declared a quorum.

It was **M/S/P** to adopt the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 5, 2011 – M/S/P

REPORTS –

Treasurer: Tom Brillat presented the Treasurer's report which showed a \$5.00 deficit. It was **M/S/P** to accept the Treasurer's report

Search Committee - Bill Bartels reported that Cindy Dowgiallo has resigned from the Search Committee for personal reasons.

Bill reported that the committee is having issues on two different levels and are in the process of deciding if they can move forward as a committee. They should be able to decide within a few weeks if they will continue or disband. New profiles continue to come in.

It was **M/S/P** that the congregation would continue to offer its support to the Search Committee

SCRIP- Dottie Leduc reported that the profit from SCRIP sales is \$5,900.00 so far. The goal for the year is \$8,000.00. She thanked all the volunteers who have been working on the program.

Trustees-Dave Remington thanked all the volunteers who have been helping to paint the church. Blue Jean Sunday will be held 11/6/11.

Sanctuary Fund-Audrey Hallberg reported that the Sanctuary Fund currently has \$11,935.00 in it.

The Trustees would like to replace the pew cushions and they would like to use \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00 from the Sanctuary Fund to purchase all the material needed at once.

It was **M/S/P** to authorize the Trustees to purchase fabric for the pew cushions not to exceed \$8,000.00.

Music-Doug Kraus reported that the Holiday Festival will be December 3, 2011.

Christian Education-Lori Hiener reported that all teacher positions have been filled and new curriculum has been ordered.

Spire Society-Elizabeth McNab and Jim Aukerman recognized three couples who have made contributions to the church.

George and Connie Fitzelle

Patricia Moore and Ron Stevens

Howard and Eleanor Bond

President's Report-Tom Brillat thanked everyone for their hard work and asked for prayers for the Search Committee. He also said that the Nominating Committee would be working to get dates in line with the new by-laws.

Pastor's Report-Pat Liberty thanked everyone for their work on the new by-laws and said we have many things to celebrate.

The Search Committee suffers from issues that are church wide and we need to work on these issues. We also should address the balance of a historic building with the needs of everyone, including handicapped seating. We need to think about a second service to allow for more growth. Both interim work and search committee work will continue.

Chuck Barnes, our conference minister, offered his observation that the Search Committee should not be rushed into a decision. These committees have started over in other churches, it is not unusual. He cautioned the congregation to have patience.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CLOSING PRAYER: Pat Liberty closed the quarterly meeting with a prayer at 11:45AM

Respectfully recorded by Nancy Holland, Clerk

S. P. N. M.

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries has been able to continue functioning because people such as you have made an extra effort to support us.

Thanksgiving turkeys and the “fixings” were distributed to 465 families including 2236 individuals for preparation in their own homes.

Our joint Christmas gifts were received by 500 families with over 2500 children so that parents could give those gifts in their own names at home.

We are most grateful for your help!

Good news! In spite of the financial struggles, we have much good news:

- We have a terrific dedicated staff.
- Our teen ReThink It! Team is still able to focus on anti-bullying issues that plague us.
- In our summer day camp program over 80 children participated in daily activities in a healthy, safe, affirming environment. Each day included breakfast and lunch as well as field trips, sports, and literacy programs.
- The Louie’s Place after-school program is in full swing with over 50 children. We also serve supper each day.
- We distribute diapers for infants and layettes to moms with newborns.
- Several times a month neighbors are able to select health and beauty products, clothing and household items from donations provided to us.
- Our Food Pantry serves approximately 500 families each week. SPNM is one of the largest food pantries in the Rhode Island Community Food Bank network.
- When funds are available, we provide utility and heating assistance.
- We have committed volunteers assisting in all our programs.

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries Annual Spelling Bee

The 5th annual adult Spelling Bee will be held on January 21, 2012, from 1:30-4:00 p.m., at Calvary Baptist Church, 747 Broad Street, in Providence. Barbara Morse Silva from Channel 10 news will again be the Mistress of Ceremonies. King Cong is always an active participant. We will probably again field three three-person teams in the competition and provide funding for each of these. As in past years, an enthusiastic group of people will also follow the spellers to Providence and be noisy supporters. Refreshments will be provided for everyone at the close of the competition. A \$5 admission fee will be levied at the gate. Rides will be provided for those who want to attend and lack their own transportation. Mark January 21st on your calendar and plan to participate in a fun event that provides key support to a worthwhile endeavor to aid the poor and needy in South Providence.

Women's Fellowship & the Gingerbread House Event

Once again Fellowship Hall was full of Gingerbread Houses! 65 houses were built on Wednesday and then decorated at the party on Saturday by about 98 women of all ages. Thank you to my co-chair Cindy Buxton for all her help and support. Thank you, Claudia Smith who retired from chairing this event but who showed up on Wednesday to help build houses! Thank you to Linda Mendillo the frosting queen and builder. And thanks to Ann Ross for her posters.

Other helpers thank you so much: Carolyn Barwise, Ruth Fiddes, Tina Letcher, Doris Findlay, Gerri Davis, Elizabeth McNab, Bev Buchert, Regina Hutton, and our wonderful treasurer, Canna Falby.

It takes a lot to pull this event together but it is a fun activity that involves all generations, so thanks to all who came and participated. Women's Fellowship donated decorated houses to: Kenny Geary, Pat Weeden, Wilma Moore, Evie Henderson, and to Jenna, a friend in need. Erin Trodson also donated one to Welcome House! (Mystery: does anyone know where Sue Macy's house went?)

Check the church website for photos to be posted soon. See you next year!
Helen Rowe-Drake

Thank you.

Jan Kraus wishes to thank all who baked and helped with the cookie sale. A total of \$700.00 was taken in for KCC Women's Fellowship to support their missions. I could not have done it without all of you! Thank you so much.

Women's Fellowship Gives out Narcissus Bulbs

For many years Women's Fellowship has bought narcissus bulbs and placed 3-4 in small containers with gravel and some holiday ribbon or garland and delivered them to the Church's members who aren't always able to get to church. This year 18 such arrangements were assembled and delivered. In addition, five were given to our church staff members as thanks for the work that they do for KCC. Thank you Canna Falby and team members who did these gifts, spreading Christmas joy and beauty!

Women's Fellowship Program

Women's Fellowship Meeting for January 9th at 7 pm will feature a panel with Connie Fitzelle on "Following Your Bliss": interviews with KCC Women. The panel's members are SECRET and will reveal their passions in life. Please note the date is the 2nd Monday January.

Hostesses will be Helen Rowe-Drake and Dottie Leduc

Devotions will be offered by Nancy Ross

Jr. High Fellowship Bowling Party on January 8th

We will leave for the bowling alley right after church service for 2 hours of fun.
Cost is \$10 for use of the lanes and a pair of shoes....
Call Sue Macy 294-6513 for more information.

“Letters from Steven” by Steven M. Newman

A Book Review by David H. Barwise

In the spring of 1983 Steven Newman began his walk around the world. On more than one occasion, he had to fly over mountains or water; but most of his journey was on foot. Steven traveled twenty thousand miles, and walked through twenty countries. The stories he tells about his experience are both exciting and surprising. On more than one occasion he traveled through situations and areas where danger existed. However, what stands out in the account of his experience is the hospitality and friendship he found in many places during his world walk.

Reading this book can be a worthwhile and even exciting experience for “stay at home” people (as most of us are). I highly recommend it.