The Spire

From Your Pastor

March 2010

Growing Up, Down and Sideways

Having a structure that fits our size is one important way to get ready for new pastoral leadership. We talked a bit about it at the Annual Meeting; I'll follow up here with a few more comments.

When churches increase in size a few things happen; you may not recognize everyone sitting around you on Sunday morning, or at coffee hour, it is hard to get newer members involved, long time leaders tend to move from one board or committee to another without any real break, and most of the church's people energy goes to filling the needs of the board and committee structure. The result is long time leaders who are tired and frustrated that newer people aren't involved. Newer members often feel that their gifts aren't needed because they aren't asked to participate.

Luckily there are some concrete things we can do and some of them are already underway. First, there is a shift from having board and committee members do all the work (and consequently having a large board) to engaging people for more task oriented participation. Many people hesitate to make a three year commitment to a board or committee, particularly if they are new to the church and not sure what the work entails. They are much more likely to agree to a project or task that captures their interest.

Consequently, boards and committees will shrink in size and act more as steering committees. For example, the Board of Mission would have 4-6 people on it. Each person oversees a particular aspect of the Board's work, for example Habitat for Humanity. The HfH contact person acts as a conduit for information and a recruiter for Habitat projects. A similar format would be used for each area of mission interest.

The chair of each board or committee would have a seat on the Council and the role of the council shifts from a reporting group to a planning group. As the church grows it is easy to have projects and programs overlap or compete. By having a central planning group those issues can be minimized.

In many ways KCC is already functioning in this way. There are sub groups and committees under almost every Board in the church. The goal is to be more efficient, not to work harder. It does take some getting used to, to be sure, but it is well worth the effort.

Several of the points raised in the strategic plan will be effectively addressed by such a change in structure; getting newer members involved will be easier, having smaller committees and boards will free up people resources for other things, there will be less need for people to serve on multiple committees and it makes it possible for all board and committees to meet on one or two nights per month.

As always, I welcome discussion and questions. I am in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-12, others by appointment.

Thank you for the privilege of sharing ministry with you during this important time.

Grace and Peace

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty
Interim Senior Minister

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)

March's Deacon of the Month is Dottie Leduc.

In Sympathy

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to Wilma Cole and family on the death of her husband, David Cole who died on February 22nd. A service will be held in the sanctuary on March 6th.

Baptism

Jakob Zachary Syrett Parents: Bryan Syrett and Allyson Thompson February 7, 2010

A SCRIP MOMENT

On Sunday January 17, 2010, THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL featured an article by Gregory Karp, "People think, 'Grocery spending, who cares? That's the minor spending.' The American family of four spends $9,200 a year on groceries. Add paper goods, personal-care products, and other items and you are spending about $10,000."

At our Annual Meeting the congregation approved the 2010 allocations for the realized funds from the SCRIP PROGRAM. For 2010 the allocations are as follows: 50% toward the 2010 Budget as a fundraiser item; 25 % for a local Mission program (to be determined by the Board of Missions and Social Justice); and, 25% toward a Trustee designated project. The allocations are to be voted upon annually. A target goal of $7,500 for the year, a "Stretch" goal of $10,000 and a "Wow goal of $1500 has been set for this year. The SCRIP Program at KCC has realized nearly a 5% return on the total sales to date.

If Gregory Karp is correct about our grocery spending, JUST IMAGINE IF ALL OF US PURCHASED OUR GROCERY CARDS FROM KCC SCRIP WHAT IT WOULD MEAN FOR OUR MINISTRY. HELP US TO GO BEYOND "WOW'!!!!!

Please come to the SCRIP TABLE in the Fellowship Hall to learn about the Program. It's easy to use the SCRIP CARDS. ASK your friends what their experiences have been. Feel free to offer any suggestions or feedback to us. COME TO THE TABLE TO ORDER, BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK, AND HELP THIS MINISTRY GROW.

THE SCRIP TEAM:

Faye Boudreaux-Bartels	Dottie Leduc
Tom Butcher	Elizabeth McNab
Nancy Corvese	Dick Shaw
Beth Curtis	Karen Tucker

One Great Hour of Sharing

"Do you love me? *Feed my sheep."

The collection for One Great Hour of Sharing will be taken on Palm Sunday, March 28th. This is the only National UCC offering that KCC participates in. Please give generously. See the flyer in this issue.

Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon Series

- March 3 at Christ United Methodist Church, 2291 Kingstown Rd. with Rev. Juliet Bongfeldt, Pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd preaching
- March 10 at Kingston Congregational Church, 2610 Kingstown Rd. with Rev. Raymond Bradley, Jr., retired United Church of Christ preaching
- March 17 at Church of the Ascension, 370 Main St. with Rev. Thelma Nauth, Pastor of Christ United Methodist Church preaching
- March 24 at Wakefield Baptist Church, 236 Main St. with Rev. Jennifer Phillips, Pastor of St. Augustine's Episcopal preaching

Discussion Group "Jesus: Pre and Post-Easter"

A discussion group on "Jesus: Pre and Post-Easter" will be held at 10:45-11:45 a.m. on March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 11 and 18 (note date change). The focus will be on how our conceptions of Jesus influence our views of Christianity and ultimately our vision of the character and passion of God. Readings in Marcus Borg's latest book, *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary,* will provide the foundation for the discussions. Please indicate your interest in participating in this discussion group by registering at the information table in the Fellowship Hall, so that books can be ordered. Contact Jean Miller if you have questions.

Tulips and Daffodils for Easter

Due to Pastor Pat Liberty's severe allergy to lilies we have decided to ask for donations for daffodils and tulips this Easter. Anyone who would like to purchase either of these Easter flowers please see upcoming Sunday bulletins for ordering information or check with a member of the flower committee.
Thank you!

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.kingcongchurch.org.

Save the Date: April 24, 2010
KCC Progressive Supper

Sign-up begins March 20, 2010

Contact:
Cindy Dowgiallo if you have any questions
Acld98@cox.net or 783-6452

KCC Women's Fellowship & Church World Service

Please see the Bulletin Board on the Stairs or contact Helen, 789-8910 if you have any questions.

If you would like to SHOP for items to contribute, we need:
washcloths, bath size soap, nail clippers, band-aids (all one size) and gallon ziploc bags.

If you would like to contribute MONEY, we need: $175 for school bags, $100 for hygiene & $700 for baby kit items. Please put $$$ in envelopes marked CWS & checks payable to KCC Women's Fellowship. Thank you for helping us to help others!!

Church Women United
World Day of Prayer 2010

Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 5. The women of **Cameron** have written the service around the theme *Let everything that has breath praise God.* They invite us to "Africa in miniature," a country rich in diversity, where climate and culture are widely varied, but where people are bound together by a love for music, family and faith. The worship service emphasizes the importance that the people of Cameroon place on music and celebration in their praise to God.

This year's service will be held on Friday, March 5 at 1 PM at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Old North Road, Kingston. It is handicap accessible.

Invite your friends, family and communities of faith to join the women of Cameroon in prayer and song to support women's ecumenical ministries toward justice, peace, healing and wholeness. The annual offering will support the work of World Day of Prayer USA and help meet the needs of families who are victims of poverty, violence and human trafficking.

Women's Fellowship Meeting
Tuesday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m.

"The Faces of Immigration in South County"

A discussion of immigration issues will be led by
Liliana Toiu, Ingrid Yogaratnam and Jee Lee

"Save the date" March 16th

Would you please join me at Friendly's Family Fun Night in Wakefield from 5-8 pm. Doug Kraus will be hosting. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Colon Cancer Alliance, Voices of RI, to raise the awareness of the 2nd (only to lung cancer) highest cause of death from cancer, effecting both men and women equally. To be successful I would like at least 100 friends to join me. A Friendly's in Warwick and others nationwide are doing the same during the month of March, Colon Cancer Awareness Month.

Please see the poster in Fellowship Hall or ask Doug for details.

Men's Fellowship Family Basketball
January 30, 2010

Here's the report on the final tally for the doubleheader: 101 folks bought tickets, 90+ braved a frigid Saturday afternoon to sit together in Section 311. We watched the URI men add to their spectacular 2009-2010 record, and many of us stayed and rooted for the URI women against UMASS. KCC's Men's Fellowship thanks you for your terrific support for the "fun-raiser"!

Book Review by David Barwise

A book, "The Family Heart", written by Robb Forman Dew, tells of a mother's reaction to her son's telling her of his sexual orientation, which is for some socially unacceptable. He admits to an intimate relationship with a male friend. He admits that he is "gay". The story is told from the mother's point of view and offers insight into family and society's attitudes toward this socially sensitive matter. The parent's working through of this is both positive and creative. I believe that reading of this family's experience will be both an interesting and positive experience.

David Barwise

Bulletin Announcements

Please know that we are trying to minimize the duration of announcements at the beginning of the service. To help in this matter, please submit announcements to Shirley Schock <shirley@kingcongchurch.org> by Wednesday at 10:00 am to appear in the Sunday bulletin. The deadline for bulletin inserts is Tuesday at noon. The Deacon of the Month will remind the congregation to read the messages.

Environmental Task Force

The Environmental Task Force hopes that YOU will join them, Friday, March 19 at 7 pm in the Fireplace Room. Speaker Eileen Barrett from RISE will speak with us about Energy Audits for your home – how it works, what you learn, what it costs, why you might want to have this done. Refreshments will be served, please come!

You could save a million trees – please consider using this FREE service to eliminate catalogs that you receive but do not want. It really works and the website is easy.

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8th Annual
SPNM Benefit Concert
Sunday, March 7 at 3:00 PM

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston

A Musical Extravaganza by Children and Adult Groups

Listen to wonderful performances
while supporting this vital community outreach organization.

Please bring canned goods for the SPNM Food Pantry.

Free-will offering to benefit South Providence Neighborhood Ministries

Refreshments will follow the concert.

SPONSORS NEEDED
If you would like to help sponsor this concert, please call Wes Smith at 401-457-3300, ext. 2.
Sponsorships start at $100.

Issa Coulibaly
Master Djembe Drummer
Is coming to KCC after the service on
Sunday, March 14th
11:15-12:15

Issa will be leading a West African drum circle with us, and then sharing his personal stories of immigration from Mali. He has been living in the United States for 10 years, and received his U.S citizenship in 2008.

In a drum circle, each participant plays an African drum while seated in a circle. The leader teaches various rhythms to the group, and they work together to play with a common beat. There is no printed music, and so all are welcome to participate, and no previous musical experience is necessary! It is a joyous, community building experience.

$10 to participate in the drum circle
(African djembe drum provided for you)

$5 to simply observe and listen
(all proceeds will be given to Issa)

The drum circle is open to people of all ages Kindergarten and up, but we ask that children 12 and under be accompanied by an adult.

To pre-register for the drum circle (so that we know how many drums to bring) please visit the sign-up table after church beginning on February 14th or contact Jean Bambara 401-294-4741 or jmnowak@juno.com

Payment is not due until the day of the drumming circle.
A bit more about Issa:
(from his website: issacoulibaly.com)

Master Djembe Drummer Issa Coulibaly began studying the djembe and djun djun when he was 11 in his home city of Bamako, Mali. As his skill and reputation as a multi-instrumental player, vocalist and arranger grew, Issa toured Africa and Europe extensively before emigrating to America. He continues to travel from Maine to Puerto Rico facilitating retreats and performing as the lead drummer and Musical Director for a variety of African Dance troupes. Issa currently teaches at Brown University and Connecticut College. His CD debut "Foliba" (May 2009) highlights his flamboyant playing style, original arrangements of traditional songs, and amply demonstrates his solid vocal skill. "Foliba" means "big play!"

Carolyn Miller Nally

Carolyn is better known as Carrie. She was born in West Springfield, Massachusetts and attended school there. She went to the University of Massachusetts where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, majoring in Language and Literature. While she was still in college she met Tom Nally who was attending Amherst College. They married while Carrie was still in college.

Tom studied for his Master's degree at Brown University. He attended Michigan State where he earned his PhD. Carrie and Tom were in Michigan for four years. After that Tom took a job teaching at Brooklyn College and they lived on Long Island for the next 2 ½ yrs. In 1956 they moved again because Tom began his long career at the University of Rhode Island. There he was responsible for starting a new program, Elementary Education. At first they lived in Wakefield in Professor Will's home who was on sabbatical. In 1956 Al Fortin built the house Carrie still lives in on Linden Drive in Kingston.

Carrie never worked outside the home and with their six children, she had plenty to keep her busy. They had four boys and two girls. Two of them live close by; one in Narragansett and one in Kingston on Andre Ave. Tragically, they lost one son, Steve, in an accident. There is a memorial plaque in Potter Woods near the basketball court which is dedicated to Steve.

Tom was an ardent player of golf and in order to see more of him, Carrie took up the game and soon learned to love it. Carrie is physically very active. She serves on the Ski Patrol at Yawgoo Valley. The day I interviewed her she had just returned from skiing with a friend at Yawgoo. She and Tom were loyal supporters of all URI's teams and followed them up and down the East Coast. They swapped Time Shares located near where games were played. They would attend the game and then play golf the rest of the week. She still keeps up with golf. Carrie introduced me to Wii which also gives her exercise. Her favorite game is bowling.

Another of Carrie's interests is music. She and a group which includes Tina Letcher and Marilyn Goodman play recorders. They perform at the Kinneys' Azalea Tea. Shortly after arriving in Kingston in 1956 Tom and Carrie got to know the Peltons and the Aukermans who were also in the Education Department. They introduced Carrie to our church and she joined the choir when Ward and Barbara Abusmara were directors. She has sung there faithfully ever since. Carrie has been a member of the church for over fifty years and has also served on the Music Committee.

She and Tom did a lot of traveling. One of their first trips was to Germany where URI's football team was playing. On other trips they saw parts of South France, Portugal, Hungary, Yugoslavia, the Czech Republic, the Caribbean, Mexico, Iceland, Ireland, Scotland and England. They especially enjoyed river cruises along the Danube and the Christmas Rhine River cruise was a favorite. Carrie explained the river cruises were the most restful. Other interests were the camping trips to the Burlingame Campgrounds.

Carrie mourned the loss of their son, Steve, because he died before experiencing enough years of living. However, she feels blessed with her children, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren with another expected soon. Carrie had a good life with her husband, Tom. She spoke of Tom as having been a happy man who had no regrets about his life. Tom died last year in 2009.

Submitted by Pat Weeden
February 2010