The Spire

From Your Pastor

May 2008

You cannot live like that

Have you enjoyed one of those days when everything was going great, you found yourself whistling or humming, the sun was shining and then from out of the clear blue sky, someone says something negative to you or perhaps about you? It catches you off guard and makes the sun sink behind dark clouds. Have you ever relished a nice word spoken about you – a compliment – when from the lips of a friend comes an insult? Pleasant thoughts vanish, to be replaced by hurt surprise, anger, and an urge to defend yourself.

Some of the most hurtful things spoken are said in places where they are least expected. While fortunately this does not happen frequently, I'd have to say that the meanest or nastiest comments I've ever received came in church. From my pastoral conversations over the years, I've witnessed the hurt caused our members by unkind words spoken by a family member or friend – those nearest and dearest. Not strangers.

I came across one of the most wonderful sentiments, offered by the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius:

"Today you will meet all kinds of unpleasant people.
They will hurt you, and injure you, and insult you.
But you cannot live like that.
You know better,
for you are a person in whom the spirit of God dwells."

His words remind us of our Christian foundation: love, forgiveness, and grace.

Our highest life goals are to seek the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity of spirit, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.

Our highest ideal is the golden rule, to *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."*

Jesus encouraged followers to *"pray for those who persecute you."* (Matthew 5:44). The word for "*pray*" in that sentence is a different word than is usually used for prayer. It is, in the original language, *eulogeo*, which is translated *"to speak well of."* That is where the word *eulogize* comes from. Jesus asks you to speak well of those who hurt you, injure you, and insult you… because you cannot live like that. You know better, for you are a person in whom the spirit of God dwells.

Thanks be to God for messages which encourage us to rise to our highest and best.

- John Zehring

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)

Sundays in May

May 4	Message: *Peace and Social Justice for Everyday Christians*. Communion. Blue Jean Sunday.
May 11	PENTECOST SUNDAY. Everyone wear RED! The Traditional Jazz Band will be here. Procession of the Children and Choir. Mother's Day.
May 18	Tom Brillat preaching. Second Hour Program sponsored by the Board of Missions.
May 25	Message: *A Garden of Friends*. Baptism of Connor Westley Hines.
June 1	Message: *Living with Ambiguity*. Communion. Children's Sunday. Teacher Appreciation Sunday.

May's Deacon of the Month is Deb Shaw.

Members of KCC's Strategic Planning Steering Committee:

John Zehring, Kevin Munroe, Marc Ferrelli, Tom Butcher, Richard Geisler, Paul Schubert, Frank Osterman; Trustees: Sharon Davis, Deacons: Kevin Pelton, Missions & Social Action: Cindy Buxton, C.E. Committee: Jack Beliveau, Investment Committee: Jim Aukerman

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Congratulations to Brook Ross and Christina Dewi, married here on April 12th. Brook is the son of Nancy and Neil Ross.

Baptism

Grace Lenore Major	Parents: Benjamin and Caroline Geaber	April 13, 2008
Andrew Benjamin Geaber	Parents: Benjamin and Caroline Geaber	April13, 2008
Hannah Gladys Geaber	Parents: Benjamin and Caroline Geaber	April 13, 2008

The Spring Meeting of the Rhode Island Conference

May 3, 2008

at Hope Congregational United Church of Christ, 120 Wampanoag Trail, East Providence, RI.
Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Nick Carter, President of Andover Newton Theological School.

KCC Delegates:

Canna Falby	Jacque Piez	Joann Svehlik
Cliff Falby	Deb Shaw	Wayne Svehlik
Elizabeth McNab	Rosemary Wilson	Rebecca Harlow – youth

Information about this meeting including reports and resolutions can be found at www.RICUCC.org.

Welcome to New Members who joined KCC on April 20th.

Laurel Ferrelli grew up in the Berkshires of Massachusetts and resides in Exeter. She has been an attorney in Rhode Island for the past twenty years, representing children.
Tracy Heffron is retired and enjoys being involved in the community. She is a Master Gardener and loves reading, attending KCC, and her two daughters and four grandchildren. Tracy is the newly appointed KCC Librarian and is on the Casserole Crew.
David Heffron, husband to Tracy, is a local businessman. He owns Rhode Island Hydraulics, located in North Kingstown, and travels regularly throughout southern New England. He and Tracy live in Kingston and love to travel and meet new people.

Blue Jean Sunday May 4th

Everyone is encouraged to come to church on May 4th in blue jeans and sweatshirts, remain for a free lunch (no coffee hour), and stay an hour or two to help Andy and the Trustees with the spring cleaning of our church home.

Church Insurance

The Trustees are currently reviewing the Church's property/liability insurance policy along with our insurance needs. If any one in the Congregation is interested in reviewing our policy, please contact Sharon Davis, Chair of Trustees, or Dick Geisler, Treasurer, for details.

Thank you
Board of Trustees

Spire Printing Schedule

Please note that printing of the *Spire* will be suspended for July and August. Therefore, summer notices must be publicized in the June issue. The deadline for the June/Summer *Spire* is May 15th. The *Spire* will resume printing for the September issue. The deadline for the September *Spire* is August 15th.

Library News

I am very pleased to be KCC's new librarian. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to improve the Library and its use, please phone me at 782-3793.

Thank you,
Tracy Heffron

Pastor's Survey Summary

The Pastor's Survey was distributed in worship on January 20, 2008. 136 surveys were returned. While not possible to print comments, below are some highlights of the data:

Summary of data: The following questions were rated 4 or 5

Length of service (just right):	98%
Coordination of message, music, and liturgical parts (well coordinated):	97.5%
Pastor's preparation (well prepared):	98%
Warmth of welcome into service (warm, inviting)	92.5%
Quality, appearance, and helpfulness of the bulletin	94%
How well are children included and welcomed in the service?	92%

PASTOR'S MESSAGES

Engaging	90%
Perfect length	93%
Relate the Bible to everyday life	77%
Messages meet wide spectrum of theological viewpoints	91%
Use of props, teaching devices, visual aids, and variety of delivery styles	85%
Touches of humor (enjoyable):	94%

Political, controversial, social justice issues:
Desire fewer: 12% As is: 43% Desire more: 45%

Involvement of lay persons in the service:
2% too little 4% too much 94% just right

Occasional use a series (enjoy):	81%
Overall quality of messages:	93%

MUSIC

How well do you like the *New Century Hymnal:*
Dislike: 27% Middle: 18% Like: 55%

Do you think KCC should consider a new hymnal?
29% rated a 4 or 5 (yes). 57% rated a 1 or 2 (no)

How well do you like the "old favorites" printed in bulletin:
76% rated a 4 or 5

The full report, including all comments, is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

KCC Women's Fellowship and Church World Service 2008

Thank you everyone who participated this year!! Thank you to our treasurer Ruth Fiddes for her work and to Helen Rowe-Drake who shopped, counted, sorted, moved and coordinated it all. A total of $1060.00 was donated by forty people. Other individuals gave items like notebooks, erasers, sharpeners, scissors, pencils, soap, washcloths, ziplocs and baby shirts! And many gave of their time, effort or skills.

For the school kits, special thanks to Nancy Barth for sewing 70 school bags and cutting out others that were sewn by: Susan Perkins-Brillat, Beth Asher, Beth Curtis and Karen Tucker. And thanks to Cindy Dowgiallo for ordering erasers and sharpeners.

For the baby kits, thanks and praise for knitting goes to: Pat Weeden, Carolyn Barwise, Jane Skogley & Friend, Janet Munroe and Helen Rowe-Drake—there were a total of 24 adorable handmade sweaters in the kits!

For the set-up on Tuesday, thank you to Canna Falby, Delight Carpenter, Loretta Shaw, Dottie Leduc, Elizabeth McNab, Carolyn Barwise, Pat Weeden, Linda Mendillo & Helen Rowe-Drake.

For the packing day on Wednesday, thank you to the Men's Breakfast group for the delicious meal and to Linda Mendillo for being hostess and providing a wonderful fruit salad. Thank you to the workers: Pat Cox, Elizabeth McNab, Betty Faella, Ann Ross, Dottie Leduc, Canna Falby, Cindy Dowgiallo, Loretta Shaw, Carolyn Barwise, Jane Skogley, Margaret Munroe, Doris Findlay & Helen Rowe-Drake.

***And what did we do?* We filled: 30 Baby Kits, 130 Health Kits, and 204 School Kits, or a total of 364 kits in 32 boxes= 630 pounds of goods!**

Thank you all for making it possible for us to help others.

KINGSTON FAIR DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 17TH

Bake Sale 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Luncheon 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Organized by Women's Fellowship

Environmental Task Force

For those of you who have never visited the Rose Hill Transfer Station, it is an interesting place. Not only can you recycle a wide variety of items, dispose of large items your trash collector doesn't take, and dispose of your trash, but a visit to "The Dump Library" is truly a South County experience. Included in this issue of the *Spire* are the guidelines for recycling at Rose Hill. (Note to e-mail subscribers: You may pick up a copy of the guidelines in the church office or at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.) Take a ride over with some recycling some day soon! They are open from 7AM to 3PM Monday through Saturday except for holidays.

Your Environmental Task Force

Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase

Did you know that if you are a member of the Kingston Congregational Church, you are also a member of the Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase? Founded in 1819, the 189th Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in the Fireplace Room at KCC on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 7:00 PM (prior to the Trustees' Meeting). The CSPP held the deeds to our church properties until the Fellowship Hall was built. The annual report on our cemeteries will be presented along with elections for officers.

S. P. N. M.

Volunteer Appreciation and Election for South Providence Neighborhood Ministries will be held on Tuesday, May 6th at 6-8 pm at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Ave. If you have given food, money, time or talent to SPNM, please join us for this fun potluck dinner featuring Tony Maione, of United Way, as guest speaker. For a ride call Linda, 789-0937 or Doris, 783-2254. Tony Maione will be exploring the current state of non-profit groups in RI and the populations they serve. Jim Findlay and Linda Mendillo will be on the slate of officers to be elected: Jim for Co-President with Dick Pierce of Phillips Memorial Baptist Church and Linda continuing as Secretary of the Board.

Applicants for food and our full day summer camp, Happy Days, are overwhelming. The economic squeeze is already bringing more people to the food pantry weekly and over 100 children are already signed up for the camp. Last year about 20% had state support which helped to fund the program. This year many more students will need SPNM support to cover their full costs of participation. Can you help out?
For more information go to www.spnm.org and for pictures go to www.snapfish.com/info@spnm.org (password PIX).

Thank You

Dear Friends,

A very belated, but no less sincere thank you to the whole Kingston Congregational Church family for your loving concern, thoughts, prayers and kindnesses during Bill's ongoing rehab from open heart surgery and stroke. From the flowers from the alter to the cookies from the Senior High at Christmas time, the paperwhites from the Women's Fellowship and the delicious food from the casserole crew, your support has been amazing.

Again, our love and heartfelt thanks.

Bill and Marian Bowers

2007-2008 Kingston Congregational Church Music Series

Looking for a Great way to start Mother's Day this Year?

Come to a Concert at the Kingston Congregational Church

Mother's Day Eve, Saturday, May 10, 2008 at 7:00pm

***Featuring*:**

Valerie Nicolosi, mezzo soprano,
who will give a solo voice recital,

A Celebration of Motherhood in Song

Valerie received a Bachelor's in Vocal Performance from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY and a Master's in Vocal Performance from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. She participated in opera apprenticeship and residency programs including Virginia Opera, Nevada Opera, Portland Opera Repertory Theater, and a nine-month residency with the International Opera Centrum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Miss Nicolosi debuted in the title role of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with Opera Providence; sang the title role in Gustave Holst's three-man opera Savitri with Lexington Symphony; and was a soloist in the Boston Ballet's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other opera roles include Dorabella in *Cosi Fan Tutte,* Cherubino in *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Rosina in *Barber of Seville*, Hansel in *Hansel & Gretel*, Hermia & Oberon in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Olga in *Eugene Onegin*, Cupid in *Orpheus and the Underworld* and Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly,* among others. www.valerienicolosi.com

The suggested donation is $15 at the door; $10 for mothers.

Contributions to the Concert Series are also gratefully received:
Sponsor: $100; Patron: $50-$99; and Friend: $25-$49; and will be listed in the program.
Please make out checks to the KCC Music Series (tax deductible within limits of law).

Church School News

Open House

Thanks to everyone who came to the Church School Open House and enjoyed a rather cramped coffee hour "downstairs" hosted by the Board of Christian Education. Several people told me they had never been in the classrooms before, so were seeing for the first time where the children went when they left the service. Thanks also to everyone who filled out our first Church School Survey. We received 36 total responses including 23 from parents. Once the survey data is assessed it will help the CE Board and the church school director provide a church school program that addresses the needs and wishes of the children, their parents and the congregation.

Son World Adventure Park!

Save the date! Canonicus Camp - July 21 to July 25. Young people from Kindergarten through high school will enjoy a "Theme Park Adventure" that includes games, crafts, swimming, nature, music and food. They will meet children from area churches for a week-long exploration of God's love. This camp is a real bargain at $35.00 per child. Volunteers are needed, and the children of volunteers receive a substantial discount! Registration forms will be available the first week of May – see Joanne if you are interested.

Senior High Fellowship News

Please mark you calendars for Saturday, May 3rd between 11am and 2pm for the Junior and Senior High Car Wash fundraiser at the McDonald's in Wakefield!

Also, the Senior High will be selling flowers for Mothers' Day. More information will be coming from Gail Farrel.

The weekend of June 27-29th the Senior High Fellowship will be taking a Mission/ Social trip to the UCC Horton Center in New Hampshire. We would like to invite any of you that may be interested in joining us to make this a mini intergenerational trip. Please contact Sharon Alemany if you are interested in more details.

Book Review by David Barwise

Life in the Balance by Thomas Graboys, M. D.

Sterling Publishing; NY 2008

This book is the story of a highly respected and well liked doctor in Boston whose life and work was seriously affected when he developed a crippling form of Parkinson's disease. As a member of a dream team in the cardiology field, his life would never be the same. What could have become a tragic story became instead a fantastic tale of inspiration and hope.

This book is recommended reading for anyone facing hardship or indeed for any person who loves life. It shows how an individual is able to use what gifts or talents they have, however limited they may be, for positive and rewarding ends, and so find hope and fulfillment in life.

Adult Education

May 20, 27 and June 3
7pm to 8:30 pm in the Fireplace Room
"Discussion of Volunteer Simplicity"
Instructor: Amy Hubertus

Voluntary Simplicity
Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. – Margaret Mead

Consider how your life would be different if you lived with less.
Simplicity is a practice, and for many, a purposeful way of living in a complex, consumptive society. To simplify is to reduce to essentials, to streamline, and to clarify. The curriculum provided by the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) explores simplicity in all of these ways. It examines the view that each person can, at the same time, improve the quality of life, reduce expenses, and reduce environmental impact.

This course explores the practice of simplicity through a series of facilitated discussions and brief readings that allow participants to explore new ideas and share information and observations. The goal of the course is for participants to learn from themselves and from others.

Facilitator: Amy Hubertus

Look for flyers with additional information. Course books will be available in the church office prior to the course. The cost per book is $18.00. It is recommended that couples participating purchase one book.
You can visit the Northwest Earth Institute at: http://www.nwei.org/