

The Spire

From Your Pastor

May 2010

**Interested in Joining KCC?
Want to Learn More About the UCC?**

**Join us May 9 and May 16
After Worship
In the Fireplace Room
(Childcare provided)**

ARE YOU:

- **A long time attendee of KCC ready to consider membership?**
- **A recent attendee who wants to learn more about KCC?**
- **Someone who wants to know more about the United Church of Christ?**

**Then these sessions are for you!
Sign up on the Kiosk or
Contact Pastor Pat for more information.**

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)

May's Deacon of the Month is Kevin Pelton.

Baptism

Riley William Strough

Parents: Jonathan and Meghan Strough

April 18, 2010

In Sympathy

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to Cindy Buxton and family on the death of her father, Robert Pratt, who died on April 11th.

Scrip Program

The SCRIP PROGRAM has been in place since mid-November (5 ½ months). **We've sold over \$75,000 of Scrip Cards and realized nearly \$3500 in total for KCC's ministries.** Of this amount \$2200 has been raised in 2010. As was voted at the Annual Meeting, we have targeted the 2010 Scrip funds for three areas....25% to a Local Mission project, 25% to a Trustee designated project (storm windows for the facility), and 50% toward the 2010 operational budget. There's something there for everyone to identify with. **Our "Funds Raised" Goal is (minimally) \$7500 for the year.** We are slightly behind at this point, but there is time to catch up.

On April 18th we introduced **CREDIT CARDS as a way to pay for your Scrip cards.** (This is in addition to Personal Checks.) It was met with considerable enthusiasm. Nearly 1/3 of our Sales that day were done on credits cards (Visa and Mastercard). So if you want to capture your Card Miles or Rewards Points while supporting KCC, we're set to help you accomplish both.

Just a reminder that there are **approximately 500 retailers** (pretty much all you can think of) that participate in SCRIP. So please consider expanding your use of Scrip beyond your weekly groceries or on the go dining needs. We have a list of these retailers at the Scrip Table or you can go on line at www.glsc.com. So think ahead about your spring projects, vacations, etc. and consider using Scrip. Several people have used Amazon.com cards. We also carry \$25 Visa cards that can be used for your miscellaneous "cash" purchases. The bottom line is **"THINK SCRIP" to support KCC and its ministries.**

Blue Jean Sunday is May 2nd

Everyone is encouraged to stay after church to help the Trustees and Andy spruce up the church. Helpful items to bring include rags, cleaning/wax supplies, step ladders, rakes, gloves, trash bags, canister vacuum cleaners, floor mops, spray/dusters, etc.

Rhode Island Conference, UCC Annual Meeting

OFFICIAL CALL

To Authorized Ministers, Delegates, and Conference Board of Directors.
An Invitation to Visitors and Conference Committee Members.

204th Annual Meeting

of the Rhode Island Conference, UCC

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Central Congregational Church, UCC

296 Angell Street, Providence, Rhode Island

For more information and a registration form visit

<http://riconference.intuitwebsites.com/>

Congratulations, Kevin!

On Saturday, May 22, 2010, Kevin S. Munroe will be awarded a Master of Divinity at First Baptist Church, Newton Centre from Andover Newton Theological School. The previous week will be filled with graduation panels and workshops to prepare the new ministers for the future. On May 20th there will be the Dedication of the Andover Newton Honorary Walkway where Kevin will see for the first time the brick that his father-in-law, Bill Metz, purchased in Kevin's name to honor his dedication to the ministry.

Kevin went to Andover Newton part-time for many years while maintaining his architectural business. He sold the business so that he could be a fulltime student. He has so much to be grateful for during these last five years. Most of all he is grateful to the members of the Kingston Congregational Church for all the opportunities, support and love that they have shown him through these years. They will always have a special place in his heart.

Andover Newton Theological School was the first graduate school of Divinity in the United States. There are several esteemed graduates right here amongst us at Kingston. Our very own Pat Liberty is an Andover Newton graduate!

With Blessings,
Margaret and Kevin

Planned Giving May 9th after the Worship Service In the Fireplace Room

We will discuss and answer questions about wills, trusts, annuities, retirement accounts, life insurance, and investments such as the UCC's Cornerstone Mutual Fund. Updated materials from the UCC National Office in Cleveland will be handed out. Also, we will have experts available to answer questions about "What to do When a Spouse Dies", "How to Make Memorial Gifts", the KCC Permanent Endowment, The Spire Society, etc.

Annual Meeting of the Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase

The 191st Annual Meeting of the Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase will be held on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00 PM in the Fireplace Room of our church. All members of the Kingston Congregational Church are also members of the Society. The Officers are President Elizabeth McNab, Secretary Delight Carpenter, and Treasurer Dick Geisler. The Society owns and manages the KCC Cemeteries; until 1960 it owned the Church Meeting House. This meeting will be followed by the regular monthly Trustees' meeting.

Kingston Fair Bake Sale

Kingston Congregational Church Women's Fellowship will be having a baked goods table at the Kingston Fair on May 15th. We are asking the women of the church to bake cookies, cakes, bars, etc. The baked items will be received on Friday, May 14th between the hours of 4 – 7:30 pm in the Fireplace Room. If items need to be left earlier in the day on Friday, they must be labeled and left in the kitchen. If the items are brought on Saturday morning, please have them at the church before 9:00 am. For more information, please contact Donna Sciola at 783-2218 or Dottie Leduc at 789-7159.

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries has teamed up with Gregg's for Benefit Nights, any Wednesday in May at any of Gregg's Restaurants. Get a coupon at the Harvest Table at church or from the Findlays or Mendillos so that 10% of your check amount will be donated to SPNM. Great thanks to Gregg's and all our participants!

SPNM Volunteer Recognition/ Annual Meeting Dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 4th. If you have assisted SPNM in any way this year, please join us at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, Pontiac Ave., Cranston to share your favorite recipe, be recognized and vote for Board and officers. We can share rides.

Jonnycake Center Baby Shower

The Jonnycake Center is preparing to hold its second annual community baby shower, to collect donations of new clothing, diapers, and other necessities for new parents in need of assistance. This event will take place on May 8th from 9am until 2pm. For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Job Seekers

a networking opportunity for all who are seeking employment.

Thursdays 11:00-12:30 in the Fireplace Room

Starting on May 6th

This group is open to anyone from any trade or profession seeking employment. The group is intended to offer support in the job seeking process and provide practical advice on using social networking sites, updating resumes and writing cover letters.

For more Information call 783-5330 or e-mail pliberty@kingcongchurch.org
Registration or sign up is not required and all are welcome.

Environmental Task Force

With winter finally over, a wet but beautiful spring has arrived. There are many rewarding tasks to do in May that will bring much enjoyment to you and your family, and also benefit the environment. You can sow seeds for summer vegetables, start a compost pile, keep bird baths filled with fresh water and plant herbs in pots on your deck. Children love gardening, and including them will instill a lifelong love of nature. Our local libraries are a great source for books to inspire you.

Church Women United

The South County Unit of Church Women United will be celebrating May Friendship Day on Friday, May 7, 2010. It will be held at the Dunns Corner Community Presbyterian Church in Westerly, RI. There will be a potluck luncheon at noon and the celebration service will begin at 1. Attendees are asked to bring a salad and their own place setting.

The Theme of this year's celebration is "Living the Vision", and it shows how women can work together to transform communities and the world. It is a study of Nehemiah's Wall.

All are invited to attend. No reservations are required. Contact Diane Manning at 789-6185 if you need more information.

Issa Coulibali

On March 14, Issa Coulibali, a native of Mali, Africa, came to KCC with stories, drums and humor. Most importantly he came to tell real stories of the troubling and persistent issues facing immigrants in R.I. and throughout the U.S. U.S. citizenship often takes many years to accomplish. Life during that time can be both a life of poverty and of fear. Learning the rules of a new country and a new language, finding work and the path to citizenship is overwhelming for most.

First was the drumming circle filled with enthusiastic KCC learners of all ages. With humor and patience Issa taught us a variety of rhythms. With laughter and intense attention to the hand positions and the tones we made great music!

Then Issa told some of his own story and those of others to help us understand some of the immigration issues. Issa explained that when his "Green Card" (required to work legally) ran out, he worked illegally here for three years. Then a dear friend (a US citizen) asked whether he would like to marry her so that he could become a US citizen. He accepted although he already has a wife and two children in Mali. He then was able to work on his immigration status and after nearly 10 years is now a US citizen.

When asked what motivated people to come to the US, Issa thought for a moment and then said "Poverty". He explained that in Mali many people do not have enough food to eat and whenever he goes home to visit they hand him slips of paper with needs including food and medical bills. He helps as he is able until he runs out of money. Then he has to call his US friends to buy him a plane ride back to the States. So, he must find work as soon as he is back in the US in order to pay back his friends here!

We also heard a story of a friend of Issa's who worked in Rhode Island illegally for 20 years. He had a wife and two children here. One of them has special needs. This friend had applied for Refugee status. Immigration would not grant him a Green Card so he could not get a regular job. His wife, Lucy, took their two children to the Immigration Office to personally argue on his behalf, saying that he needed to work to support his family. Lucy and the children were kept at the Immigration Office, and Issa's friend was called and told that the only way his wife and children would be released was if he came into the office and turned himself in. So, he did, and was sent first to a Detention Center in California and then deported back to Mali.

Paying Legal fees is another major issue facing immigrants according to Issa. Legal advice and representation is a significant need for the immigrant community. But the cost, even with a reduction, is more than most immigrants can afford.

With much appreciation to Issa, we ended our session with the joy of drumming and the concern regarding what our possible role might be in the total immigration issue.

Pat B. Weeden

Patricia Joyce Ballentine was born in Malay-speaking Singapore, where her father was a rubber buyer and her mother was from a missionary family in India. Returning to the United States when she was three, she lived in seven towns in five states and attended eight different schools, finally settling in Kingston when her father became a Professor and later Dean of the URI College of Business. She graduated from South Kingstown High School in 1944, and is now working on her 66th Class Reunion.

Pat earned a BS in Home Economics at Rhode Island State College (now URI) in 1948 and taught in a Connecticut high school. She married Robert Curtis of Narragansett in 1949. While he was serving in the Army in Korea, their daughter Penny was born at Quonset Point Naval Hospital. Pat had to convince a suspicious MP guard that, despite having been born in Singapore, she was NOT an enemy alien! Bob was seriously wounded on the day Penny was born in 1952. After his recovery, the family moved several times to various military bases around the country. They were divorced in 1960.

Pat earned a Master's Degree at URI and was immediately given a faculty position as Instructor in Textiles, Clothing and Related Arts. She taught at URI for 27 years, becoming an expert in all aspects of clothing and textiles. She also published articles and, among other things, collaborated in developing a clothing line for the disabled. In 1961 Pat married William Weeden, a local businessman, and they lived at his oceanfront home in Matunuck with Penny until Bill's untimely death in 1984. She retired from URI as Associate Professor in 1987. In 1988 she married Edward LaRiviere, another URI grad, who died in 2006. She has three grandsons and numerous step-children.

For 20 years Pat has been a volunteer tutor at the Education Exchange (formerly Adult Learning Center), and volunteer curator at South County Museum, overseeing a huge collection of clothing and textiles. She co-chairs the Visiting Committee at our church and enjoys knitting sweaters for Women's Fellowship. Pat has been a member of Kingston Congregational Church for over 60 years!

Submitted by Norma Hagist
April 2010

**Disaster Recovery Center
Washington County
Wakefield Mall
Open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., daily**

www.fema.gov or 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585

Publicity

“Don’t hide your light under a basket” ... “If you ask them, they will come” ... are traditional maxims, proverbs of common experience ... ADAGES! In the world of Public Relations, they are the first commandment! So, if we wish to attract visitors ... new MEMBERS ... we must let folks know ... folks outside of our church community ... folks nearby ... we must publicize those things that could be of interest so that they may “test drive” THE KINGSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. Rummage Sales ... Dance Programs ... Bake Sales ... Music Programs, etc. can serve to attract visitors from outside our close-knit community. If you have an event that could serve to attract your neighbors ... your friends ... let’s let them know. HOW? You could leave the information in the “Publicity” folder near the church office, or call, or fax, Earl Baker at (401) 886-9012. It’s worth a try ... and, it’s FREE!

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.kingconchurch.org.

The Trustees “Cover a Bill” Fundraiser

The trustees are offering church members the opportunity to take on a bill for a month/week to help us with our budget deficit, and thereby see their tangible contribution to the running of the Church. We will also offer groups that use the church facilities the opportunity to participate in this fundraising program. Progress will be reported each month in the Spire

On the next page is a list of expenses from the budget.

On your contribution check we ask you to add in the memo which line item you would like to support.

**Fund Raiser Ideas
Trustees Expenses**

**I / We would
like to contribute
the following to the
expenses of KCC**

	Actual 2009		Budget 2010	Monthly	Weekly	Contributed To Date
Building and grounds	\$15,974		\$13,195			
miscellaneous	\$6,302	39%	\$5,146	\$429	\$99	
Cleaning	\$6,045	38%	\$5,014	\$418	\$96	
snowplowing	\$3,600	23%	\$3,035	\$253	\$58	
Fuel (natural gas)	\$15,787		\$16,576	\$1,381	\$319	
Electricity	\$4,101		\$4,170	\$348	\$80	
Water and sewer	\$1,602		\$1,602	\$134	\$31	
Rubbish collection	\$897		\$910	\$76	\$18	
Property/Liability Ins.	\$9,794		\$10,033	\$836	\$193	
Copier/computer	\$7,816		\$9,075	\$756	\$175	
Office supplies/postage	\$5,287		\$5,500	\$458	\$106	
Telephone	\$979		\$1,000	\$83	\$19	
sum						0

On your contribution check please indicate in the memo which line item you would like to support.

Name _____