

# The Spire

**F**rom Your Pastor

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November 2008

## Worldwide Financial Crisis

It happened so fast, like an automobile accident. Before we could blink, it crashed and we were trapped in the middle of it. Worldwide stock markets plunged to depths unknown to this generation. No one knows where the bottom lies. It could get worse. Commentators are just beginning to explain what it could mean. We can only guess that houses will continue to become worth less, unemployment will rise, and dreams for the future are shattered. If we think we've got it bad, many are worse off and we have no idea how to help them. Instead of being rewarded for saving, investing smartly, and preparing for the future, we have faced enormous losses which may not be made up in our lifetime.

80% of Americans report that they live now under stress because of the economic crisis. It is a crisis. We are troubled and for good reason. If there is anything that speaks to times of trouble, it is Psalm 46 reminding us that God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. Listen to how the Psalmist explains that even though the world seems to be coming apart, we still have one who is our help:

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.*

*The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge...*

*"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

At a time like this, it feels good to be part of a community of faith. We come to church to find comfort, peace, strength, perspective and reassurance. We come to process all that is going on around us and what it might mean for us. We come to consider what is most important about our lives and what we have to be grateful for. Though we are enormously preoccupied with what the financial crisis might mean for us, worship lifts us up out of our preoccupation to consider that which we truly value in life:

- The things we value most cannot be taken away from us: faith, family, and friends.
- In the worst of times, we are still motivated to help and care for others, even when we're not quite sure how to help ourselves.
- When the noise of TV, newspaper, internet, and radio commentators try to explain what all this might bode for us, it is comforting to hear the reminder to "*Be still, and know that I am God.*"

Hard times lie ahead. We have a God who majors in hard times. God will always be your refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble...no matter how your earth should change. God has always been there for people in hard times. Assets may be devalued but the inner nature grows enriched and enhanced.

Psalms 23 talks of the “*valley of the shadow of death.*” The actual translation is “*the valley of dark shadows.*” We live now in a valley of dark shadows and are well-served to remember the rest: “*I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.*” God is with you in this time of global crisis. Know that God is your refuge and strength and very present help in time of trouble.

– 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 November**

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| November 2  | Message: <i>Uncertainty, Chaos, and Christianity</i> by Dr. Paul Jacobs, for the Stewardship Committee. Pastor Zehring will officiate at the sacraments of Holy Communion and the Baptism of Francisca Lezaeta Gregory. Second Hour Sermon Talk-back with Dr. Jacobs.<br>Note: Daylight Savings Time ends. |
| November 9  | The Rev. Sharon Key, our Consecrating Steward, will lead the service for the Stewardship Committee. Witnessing Steward Testimony. Blue Jean Sunday (no coffee hour today) everyone is invited to help the Trustees with our fall housecleaning. A light lunch will be served afterward.                    |
| November 16 | Message: <i>A Psalm for the Neglected.</i> Witnessing Steward Testimony. Second Hour Adult Education: <i>A Sacred Conversation on Race</i> , led by Sharon Davis.  |
| November 23 | Message: <i>The world of the generous gets larger and larger.</i> Thanksgiving Sunday and Stewardship Sunday. No verbal announcements today. Dedication of pledges for 2009 – please bring your pledge card to place at the altar.   |
| November 30 | Message: <i>The best is yet to come.</i> First Sunday in Advent. Lighting of the Hope Candle on the Advent Wreath. After Worship: 1. Advent Workshop. 2. Forum on Next Year’s Proposed Budget (Fireplace Room)   |

*November’s Deacon of the Month is Andrea Richardson.*

***Baptism:***

Taylor Faith Bambara

Parents: Joseph and Jean Bambara

October 12, 2008

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***In Sympathy***

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to the family of Phil Carpenter who died on October 10, 2008.

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**We welcome New Members who joined KCC on October 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Jennifer Collins

Jenny is a mother of three, a trumpet player who plays frequently at KCC and other churches, and a music teacher in the South Kingstown Public Schools. She is grateful for the faith community here at the Kingston Congregational Church and for “*how they have made me feel welcome.*”

David Charles Remington (“Rem”)

*Rem* was born in Andover, Massachusetts and moved to RI when he was 9. He is married to Lori and has a ten-year-old son Joshua. Rem works for Balise Toyota in Warwick as a service technician. He is a Cub Scout den leader and Popcorn kernel for Pack 5 in North Kingston. Rem enjoys reading SiFi/fantasy books, National Geographic, and Popular Science and enjoys disc golf, frisbee, camping and hiking.

Michael and Tracey Salvadore

Michael and Tracey Salvadore have just celebrated their 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and live in Narragansett with their beautiful daughter Natalia who just had her 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, and their new baby, Jacqueline Mariella born on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Michael is a Professional Commercial & Industrial Auctioneer and Senior nationally accredited appraiser with Salvadore Auctions and Appraisals Inc. Michael enjoys surfing, skiing, and golf and is a licensed pilot.

Tracey, born in Montreal and raised in South Florida is currently a stay at home mom. Previously, she was the owner of Karibou, a designer Sterling Silver jewelry company. Tracey appeared on QVC and traveled the world designing and selling her jewelry.

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**202nd Autumnal Meeting  
of the Rhode Island Conference United Church of Christ  
Saturday, November 15, 2008**

*Seekonk Congregational Church  
600 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, Rhode Island*

Immerse Yourself:  
Immersed in the Culture of the UCC  
Speaker: The Rev. Elizabeth C. Nordbeck  
Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Andover Newton Theological School.

## **Consecrating Stewards Program November Events**

- Witnessing Steward  
Christine Pelton Sunday 11/02/08
- Guest Steward Sermon  
Rev. Sharon Key Sunday 11/09/08
- Witnessing Steward  
Brad Asher Sunday 11/16/08
- Consecration Sunday  
Sermon/Celebration  
Rev. John Zehring Sunday 11/23/08

Program Announcer: Tom Brillat

**"The world of the generous gets larger and larger."**

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### **Blue Jean Sunday is November 9. 10:45am-12:45 pm.**

Trustees Britt Foss and Wayne Lee are co-chairs of this event. Everyone is encouraged to stay after the church service to help the Trustees and Andy spruce up the church for the fall season. A light lunch will be served afterward.

### **Adult Education**

November 16, Second Hour following Worship

*A Sacred Conversation on Race, Part II My Story"*

will be presented by Sharon Davis

10:45am in the Fireplace Room.

Come hear her Black female perspective on racism.

### **Election Day is November 4, 2008**

Please vote – every vote is important.

## Complete Your Collection or Start a New One

In 2003 we sold Church Cutouts (Cats Meow) of KCC. The trustees will now be offering the remainder of the set – Fellowship Hall and The Church House. We will be taking orders for the new buildings as well as the church on three Sundays: October 26<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Harvest Table after the service or you may place an order by calling Pat Cox at 789-0923. Prices will be \$20.00 a building, \$35.00 for Fellowship Hall and The Church House and \$50.00 for all three buildings. Payment is due at time of placed order. Delivery will be here in time for Christmas. What a great Christmas Gift!

## S. P. N. M.

Please help send TURKEYS or TUNA to South Providence Neighborhood Ministries for Thanksgiving. Please see Angelo and Linda Mendillo (789-0937), Doris and Jim Findlay (783-2254) or Claudia Smith (788-8141).

## Calling ALL KCC Cookie Bakers!

A sign up poster will be hung in Fellowship Hall in November for people to sign up to bake holiday cookies for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women's Fellowship Cookie Sale! All cookie bakers are encouraged to sign their name to help make this the best cookie sale ever. If anyone would like to help shop for decorative bags for the cookies please contact Jan Kraus 783-1447 or [jan@kraus.info](mailto:jan@kraus.info). More information will be coming soon on the sign up sheet.

## UCC Women to Celebrate “Together Building Bridges”

United Church of Christ Women from all over New England will gather in Burlington, Vermont on March 12, 13, 14, 2010 for their 8<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION. The theme is ***TOGETHER BUILDING BRIDGES... a time to break down and a time to build up....*** Ecclesiastes 3:3.

In 1980 during the Annual Meeting of the New England Women's Fellowship Presidents, five women had a dream. That dream was to reach out to the women in the pews, to involve them in learning and sharing about their faith. The dream was realized in 1982 when the first CELEBRATION, WEAVING THE FABRIC OF OUR FAITH, took place in Portland, Maine. Over 1000 women took part in that event and many looked forward to and participated in similar CELEBRATIONS which have been held every four years ever since. Over the years, this has become an intergenerational event.

***CELEBRATION VIII – TOGETHER BUILDING BRIDGES*** offers exciting opportunities for discovering and understanding differences. Topics such as Race, Immigration, Sexuality, Economics, Generational Differences, and Worship Choices will be examined. Plan to join us to make new friends and re-establish old ties with people from New England and beyond. We invite you to mark your calendars for March 12, 13, 14, 2010. Be with us to CELEBRATE – together building bridges!

## **Mother Daughter Luncheon**

### **Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 11-2 pm**

Come join the fun and fellowship as we eat lunch and decorate GINGERBREAD HOUSES.

Bring a sandwich. Dessert and drinks will be provided.

For reservations, call Claudia Smith, 788-8141. \$12 FOR EACH HOUSE YOU ORDER

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship

## **Still Speaking" Daily Devotional**

For those of you who feel that they don't have time every day for prayer or reflection, or for those who do find the time, but would like a little "extra" from a UCC perspective, there is a wonderful resource that can be found on the National UCC website. You can sign up to receive a free" **Still Speaking" Daily Devotional** - and every morning you will be sent a Bible text, a meditation on the text, and a prayer via e-mail. The meditations are written by many different people including well known authors such as Martin Copenhaver and Donna Schaper. It is a wonderful way to start the day, and it is totally free!

## **Gail Rudginsky**

**born 5/9/1948, died 8/26/2007**

Gail Rudginsky's grave is now marked with a headstone from Comolli Granite of Westerly. It is grey unpolished RI granite, 17"x 10"x 3", with her name, dates and a butterfly. It was made possible by those who contributed money and put "love thy neighbor" into action, thank you: Tom & Linda Butcher, David & Carolyn Barwise, George & Connie Fitzelle, Fred & Jan Test, Luke & Anna Mary Albert, Jacque & Marcia Perrolle, Dottie & Ed Leduc, Ron Stevens & Pat Moore, Martha Hartman, and Helen Rowe-Drake. Thank you Jack Whitehead for starting this project and Elizabeth McNab for support from the cemetery committee. A special thanks goes to Mike McMahon for installing the stone. Rest in Peace Gail.

## **Message from your Environmental Task Force**

Random thoughts on the environment... Have you been going to the Honors Colloquium on global climate change? I've seen some of you there. It's been fascinating! The discussions have covered historical changes as well as aspects of what may be happening now. Think about attending. They are at Edwards Auditorium on the URI campus, Tuesdays at 7:30 PM and last about an hour.

As we approach the Christmas season, I'm thinking about everything from holiday lights (LED lights use less energy) to how much "stuff" we need to give and receive, and whether I can make Christmas more environmentally friendly, at least for my family and friends. Especially for older relatives I've found the gift of time is the most meaningful so I give a lunch or dinner out instead of "things". We've done the same with my siblings, we meet for lunch and that is our gift to each other. With Jim's siblings we settled on getting together to give to a charity. Of course there are environmentally friendly gifts out there as well. I just offer it as something to think about...

Respectfully,

Cindy Buxton for your Environmental Task Force.