

The Spire

From Your Pastor

November 2011

Speaking Christian

Do words like sin and salvation make you uncomfortable? How about born again and Holy Spirit? Maybe it's heaven and hell that makes you nervous. Maybe you struggle with repentance and forgiveness. If you can relate to any of this, read on. I have an invitation for you.

No doubt about it; the language of Christianity is in trouble. Central tenets of our faith are used in narrowly defined ways in our culture. And just like the "squeaky wheel gets the grease" the loudest voices in religion lay claim to exclusive definitions that fit their particular theological perspective. And those perspectives are very different from ours and many other Christians.

Still, it is hard to sort through all the religious rhetoric and come to a biblically based and balanced definition of some of the central tenets of the Christian faith.

That's why I am inviting anyone and everyone to "Speaking Christian" a discussion of the Christian Faith Contemporary Christians. **Mark your calendars for November 17 and December 15, 7:00 in the Fireplace Room.**

Our discussion will follow some of the concepts put forth in Marcus Borg's new book, Speaking Christian, Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning. If you wish to buy the book, you may but it is not necessary.

I believe that a biblical foundation for faith constructs is important. And I believe that it must be grounded in the whole Bible, not just a passage here and there that supports a particular position.

Join us for this opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge and share your questions. Join a group of friends in faith for discussion, sharing and fun! Yes, talking about faith can be fun...

If you have questions or would like to learn more contact me at pliberty@kingconchurch.org or call me at 783-5330.

Growing with you in faith and knowledge,

Pastor Pat

**LECTIONARY AT LUNCH MOVES TO WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2011**

**JOIN US FOR A LIVELY DISCUSSION OF THE BIBLE READINGS FOR THE
COMING SUNDAY.**

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

November's Deacon of the Month is Beth Asher.

Baptism:

Leroy Henry Walker Chappell Parents: Michael and Krista Chappell October 9, 2011

We welcome new members who joined KCC on October 16th:

Carolyn Eastberg

Susan Eriksen

Brenda Yonkoske

John Eastberg

Jaime Nelson

Greg Yonkoske

KCC Choir

Do you have an interest in music and enjoy singing? The KCC Choir under the direction of Dr. Enrico Garzilli holds practice every Thursday evening from 7-9pm and sings every Sunday morning during worship. We'd love to have you join us.

 **Holiday Music Festival** 



⇒ *Mark the Date: Saturday, December 3rd at 4 PM* ⇐

Come one 😊 come ALL 😊😊😊😊😊

Help KCC celebrate the Season at a Musical extravaganza!

🎵 Performances by talented youth, members of KCC and the Community 🎵

Following the KCC Cookie Sale and "Holiday in Kingston," join us for a rollicking good time as we showcase music from many genres. Local talent will bring their musical skills to a program with something for everyone. There will be refreshments in the Fellowship Hall and a drawing for gift baskets.

Tickets \$10 each or \$20 maximum per family
Infant and Toddler Childcare provided
Proceeds to benefit KCC and its Music Program

Want to showcase your own talent? See Enrico Garzilli or anyone on the Music Board and we'll arrange for an audition.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK THANKSGIVING DINNER

1 PM NOVEMBER 24, 2011

AT

KINGSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Located on Rte. 138 Kingston

Opposite the entrance to Upper College Road

All ages are welcome

Bring your whole family, friends, or just yourself

And a favorite holiday dish to share

Church members will provide the turkeys, cranberry sauce,
rolls and butter, coffee and tea.

Please come and help us celebrate the holiday

In the true spirit of community!

from the Board of Missions and Social Justice

At this time of Thanksgiving...

We are deeply grateful for the willing hands and efforts our members and friends give our church in so many ways during the year. Special thanks goes to the individuals and families whose Stewardship pledges totaled \$238, 318, a significant portion of our church's budget. Everyone plays a unique role in KCC, and we are blessed by the generosity of spirit, time and funds that collectively strengthen our church community.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Heald, Chair
Board of Stewardship

DON'T BE A TURKEY!!

Shop SCRIP to help KCC ministries

THANKSGIVING – CHRISTMAS

CHECK US OUT IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

OR

www.glscrip.com

S. P. N. M.

Great thanks from the staff and neighbors at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries for the frequent food collections during this fall's UCC and KCC Mission 11/11 program. In September alone we served 1305 individuals with food CHOICE and 97 new people were added to our roles. The numbers rise from week to week.

For Thanksgiving we would appreciate volunteers helping to distribute food daytimes on the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday before "turkey day." Food will be collected from all over the state on Sunday afternoon. Volunteers on that day will be organizing and preparing for the distribution on the following days. Again the CHOICE system will be used so that folks can take the foods they like and cook at home for their families. If you can volunteer, please call 461-7509 so that we can arrange for your assistance on the right day and time. Your help is increasing the nutrition for struggling folks in the city.

Blue Jean Sunday is November 6th

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, stepladders, rakes, gloves, trash bags, canister vacuum cleaners, floor mops, spray/dusters, etc. It would also be helpful to have a few pick-up trucks available for moving leaves. Please come and help!

KCC Jr. High Fellowship Leaf Raking for our elderly church members

Family Leaf Raking for our seniors will be on November 6th right after church service.

All family members are welcome (moms, dads, brothers, sisters). Last year our youngest raker was 5 years old. Bring rakes, tarps, gloves, leaf blowers and dress warmly. Bring a bag lunch to eat while raking. We will break up into 3 groups to rake the various lawns, and then all gather at the last lawn for cocoa, cookies, coffee and fellowship when done.

PLEASE RSVP as soon as possible as to how many of your family will be coming. I need a head count so I can schedule the number of lawns we can manage.

If anyone needs community service hours let me know, and I will give you a signed paper.

Thanks,
Sue Macy 294-6513 for any questions.

PS If you can't bring any family members come anyway. We will arrange to get you home.

World Community Day 2011

“Living Our Faith: Unlocking Action”

Sponsored by South County Church Women United
Friday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Please note the change of location to

Wakefield Baptist Church
236 Main Street, Wakefield

Environmental Film Series

Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Project,
Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of South County

28 North Road, Peace Dale, RI
7:00 pm – all films are FREE*

Next in the series:

The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil (2006)

November 4, 2011

*Non-perishable food donations for the Jonnycake Center are appreciated!

Senior High Pie Sale

Buy your holiday pie and support Senior High Youth Group! We will be taking orders for pumpkin pies over the next few weeks. Pies will be baked on November 19 and delivered after service in Fellowship Hall on November 20. Pies are baked to order only, so place your order with any senior high or see Amy Hubertus 539-4623 or Frank Lenox.

New Contact Information

Please note that Connie and Jim Pike have a new phone number:
401-789-4144

If your contact information has changed in any way, or you know of someone whose contact information has changed, please notify the church office so records can be updated. If you request it, we will print your new information in the *Spire*.

If you know someone who isn't receiving the *Spire* but would appreciate it, please contact the church office. And please let us know if you no longer wish to receive the *Spire*. Thank you.

Bettina Letcher

Tina, as she is better known, was brought up in Freeport, New York. She and her older brother attended school in Rochester. Tina took music lessons at the Eastman School of Music and attended Mt. Holyoke College, majoring in English. During that time she met Stephen Letcher who was majoring in Physics at Trinity College. Three years later they were married. Steve earned his PhD at Brown University and became a professor of Physics at URI. They have a son, Ben and a daughter, Abby, whose husband, Andy is Martha and Karl Hartman's son. They also have three grandchildren.

Because three of Steve's sabbaticals were in Scotland, France and Japan, Tina was able to develop her interest in other countries and their cultures. This interest in different cultures began in early childhood and continues today. She and Steve are still traveling but to warmer climates, Central and South America and New Mexico.

Tina says she grew up "unchurched" and was never baptized until her twenties. After moving to Kingston she and Steve joined our church in 1963 and she has been a member for nearly 50 years. Soon after joining they found themselves leaders of the Pilgrim Fellowship. It was a challenging task but made easier by the excellent organization of the past group. Jim Aukerman and Margaret Metz were in the group. Tina has been active in the choir, the morning discussion group, the RI Conference, and her main interest, the Social Action Committee. She says it was the church that taught her to care about social action. She was sent by the UCC Conference in 1986 as a delegate to the Bridges for Peace tour. This tour took her to Russia during the Cold War and later she spoke to forty different churches in RI about her experiences. She was part of a Peace Committee at the state level and was sent on a second tour to Russia. An outgrowth was the "Peace Fleece" program. Both American and Soviet cooperatives raised wool to sell and encourage trade between the two countries. Recently, she has worked with Habitat for Humanity and helped KCC on the "Angelina's Shelters in Chiapas" program.

Her interest in immigration intensified with the problems of the boat people, the Vietnamese. She and her husband have sponsored Vietnamese, Afghan and Romanian families in the United States. They are still in contact with them.

Somehow during all this activity Tina found time to earn a PhD at URI and has taught writing there. For the past several years she has been teaching in the ESL program (English as a Second Language) at the Washington County Adult Learning Center. This program has met regularly at the Kingston Congregational Church. Tina has also taught writing at the ACI in both the maximum and super maximum security sections. She says she learned more from them than they learned from her!

Tina has a love for poetry, writes her own poetry as well as publishing a poetry magazine, the "Northeast Journal". She has helped to run a poetry meeting series at URI. A neighbor, Indu Suryanarayan, and she (unknown to each other) wrote poetry descriptions of each other and they published a book together. One of Tina's goals since retirement has been to spend time meditating and to become more spiritual. The following poem written by Tina helps to express those feelings:

The Image

*I can easily weave an image of the Enemy
From the dark stuff of my own fear
Now, how to reweave?
Each strand must be held and put again with love in place.*