

The Spire

From Your Pastor

October 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

If there is one thing that is clear from these last weeks it is this: there are many people who care deeply about Kingston Congregational Church. To all of you who have participated in the conversations, attended meetings and expressed opinions, thank you.

To our leaders; President Tom Brillat and members of the Church Council and the Board of Christian Education, especially Michelle Davis, my heartfelt thanks for your skills, gifts and commitment to KCC. I hope you will join me in expressing your thanks to our dedicated and hard working lay leaders.

It is not easy to make decisions to change staff and it is not easy to hear that such decisions have been made. We listened to your concerns and while there are some things we might have done differently, experience tells me that regardless of how the decisions are made there is upset and critique of the process.

At the informational meeting there was strong feeling that the congregation should have been more involved in the process that brought about staff changes. Citing our congregational polity as the basis for such involvement was the common theme.

What does it mean to be congregational? It means there is involvement of the body in decision making; approving a budget, electing officers and lay leadership, calling and dismissing a settled pastor and approving changes to by-laws are examples of decisions that are made by the congregation, usually in response to recommendations from leadership.

Congregational churches depend on the membership to be informed, involved and active in the organizational life and ministry of the church. In a practical way it means attending congregational meetings and reading minutes of meetings as posted in the Spire. Annual and quarterly meetings are the best way we have to communicate with the membership about what is happening in the church.

Being congregational also means that we elect leaders to act on behalf of the congregation in other matters that shape our common life. Being congregational means that we covenant with our leaders to act on our behalf and trust them to act in the best interests of the church. It is the responsibility of the Council to assure the church's organizational, financial and structural well being. Holding the big picture in clear focus sometimes means making difficult decisions.

The financial crisis we face is first and finally a stewardship crisis. The pledging of KCC members has been steadily declining for the last 7 years with the most precipitous drop about four years ago, before the downturn in the economy. In our current fiscal year our budget shortfall is complicated by passing a deficit budget AND having members withhold pledges. Secondly there is attrition due to death and loss of membership.

A stewardship crisis is a conundrum; it is all about money and it has nothing to do with money. For obvious reasons it is about money. The flip side is that stewardship is about our relationship with the church as a ministry and the church as a community. Stewardship is about

- ordering our personal financial priorities in ways that reflect our gratitude to God.

- expressing our gratitude through support of the church that exists to worship and serve God.
- an expression of the covenant relationship we share as partners with God in the work of the kin-dom.

I continue to believe in the work and ministry of KCC and am grateful to share this time of ministry with you as we labor for the future.

Grace and Peace

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty

Sundays at KCC

October 3, 2010

19th Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday and Blanket Sunday

Lectionary Texts

Psalm 137 Lamentations 1:1-6

2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10

October 10, 2010

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Texts

Psalm 66:1-12 Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19

October 17, 2010

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Lynn Baker Dooley

October 24, 2010

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

A musical worship service featuring

Mass for the Son of God (21st c.) Whitbourn

October 31, 2010

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Sunday

Lectionary Texts

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10

Quarterly Meeting

DON'T FORGET

LECTIONARY AT LUNCH BEGINS ON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2010 AT

NOON IN THE FIRE PLACE ROOM

BRING YOUR LUNCH

STUDY THE TEXTS FOR SUNDAY!

NO SIGN UP REQUIRED

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)

October's Deacon of the Month is Tracy Heffron.

In Sympathy

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to Tom and Linda Butcher and family on the death of Linda's father, Edward Kedzierski who died on September 18th.

News from Trustees

We hope you like our newly sealed driveways and parking lot, with the new white lines, etc. Our asphalt needed repairs, and parking lines were becoming nonexistent, so we used maintenance funds from Buildings and Grounds to complete that needed work, done prior to having a bigger job on our hands in another year. Thanks to Dave Heffron for filling in the 2 large potholes at our entry driveway.

We would ask that you honor the signs that call for "Compact Cars" to the rear of our building. The fire trucks need wide spaces to drive around our church in case of trouble, and only small cars should be parked there. Thank you for understanding.

Our storms/screens on the sanctuary were old, dingy, and in many cases, non-operable. We applied for grant money from The Potter Fund to replace them, and were given \$4700. Thanks to the Scrip funds of \$1000, we were able to go ahead with this job. While the old fixtures are off the wooden windows, we are having them scraped, re-glazed and painted since they have not been done for at least 12 years. Then the new white storms/screens will be firmly secured by Windor to cut down on drafts, and when the building needs painting again, we won't need to touch those windows. Trustees have been saving a "Painting Escrow Fund" with any dollars left from other projects, and there was money in that fund to do these windows at this time.

We are ever mindful of our kitchen project, chaired by Doug Kraus, and funds for the kitchen are "Capital Improvement Funds" which come from gifts, etc. As the Kitchen Committee comes to consensus on improvements, more work will follow. Thanks for all the work that has gone on there already.

Submitted by Audrey Hallberg
on behalf of the Board of Trustees

The Quarterly Meeting
of
The Kingston Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Will be Held in the Church Sanctuary
Following the Worship Service
Child care will be available

Sunday, October 31, 2010

10:45 a.m.

Martha Hartman, Clerk

Tentative Agenda

1. Call to Order: Jim Aukerman (Moderator)
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the June 28, 2010 Quarterly Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report Richard Geisler
5. Search Committee Report Bill Bartels
6. New Business
7. President's Report Tom Brillat
8. Interim Pastor's Report Rev. Patricia Liberty
9. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The Kingston Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 27, 2010

Handouts:

Agenda, Kingston Congregational Church Quarterly Meeting, 6/ 27/ 2010

Quarterly Meeting Minutes, Kingston Congregational Church UCC, 04/ 25/ 2010

Special Meeting of the Congregation, Kingston Congregational Church, UCC, 05/16/2010

Moderator Jim Aukerman welcomed everyone, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Moved, Seconded and Passed (M/S/P/) to adopt the Agenda as presented.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of the Treasurer and a written report, Tom Brillat, President, provided an update. Our YTD budget deficit is \$2000 and our built in deficit, \$16,000. The report was received without further comment.

New Business: Speaking for the Board of Deacons, *Linda Mendillo made a motion that the proposed new Welcome Statement, "Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here," be adopted. The motion was Seconded and Passed without discussion.*

Following the vote, a question was raised as to the reason for the change. Tom Brillat replied that he had really liked the previous Welcome Statement but that in listing those we welcome, it seems that we leave some one out. Linda Mendillo stated that she is delighted with the new one that does not define people by putting titles on them. Other comments were that the previous statement was too wordy and that the new one says what we want to say.

President's Report: Tom Brillat

Tom talked with other comparable churches in the Conference and found our demographics to be comparable to other churches. Most of the churches were running pledge drives in the spring and one had its best pledge year to date this spring.

Tom noted that we could eliminate our built in deficit of \$16,000 by each raising our pledge commitment (ca. 170 pledge units) by an average of \$2 per week. Tom also stressed that KCC is a place to which people want to come and expressed concern about our 5-year trend of decreased revenue.

After considering the personnel expenses, he concludes that there are things to talk about but doesn't think these would make a major impact on our finances. Paul Jacobs and Sue Kermes urged members to consider how close we are as a body to meeting our goal and how valuable the church is to us and to our community. Ken Kermes urged that we think long term about our financial needs not just about balancing this year's budget. Other suggestions: a 25-month long Special Campaign and personal visits at the time of the Pledge Drive.

Interim Pastor's Report: The Reverend Patricia L. Liberty

Pat spoke from a prepared text. Her remarks focused on our work together during this interim time and the terms of the formal Covenant we have with one another.

Discussion followed. In response to a question as to what she sees as our biggest challenge and a comment about not caring about details of the history, Pat stated her conviction that while we don't need to have all the details, having a common narrative about our history is very important and that the Church Council is working on ways to create opportunities for discussion with clear objectives.

Pat's complete written report is on file with these minutes.

Paul Jacobs, member of the Pastoral Search Committee, and Bill Bartels, Chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, responded to a question about the status of the Search Committee. The Committee is beginning to work on criteria for a future pastor and demographics for a church profile. They plan to meet two times a month and have had three meetings so far. Bill asked the congregation to support their work on a regular basis with prayers for spiritual discernment. Paul noted the nametags that committee members wear for easy identification. The next step is a meeting with Rev. Chuck Barnes, Conference Minister. There will be monthly updates in the Spire beginning in September.

The moderator adjourned the meeting at 11:25 with prayer offered by Pastor Pat.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha E. Hartman, Clerk

Fall for Scrip

The season has changed and fall is upon us. Many are getting households and lawns ready for the coming seasons. **SCRIP CAN HELP!!!** Not only do we carry gift cards for grocery, pharmacy, and clothing retailers, but also home improvement merchants such as Home Depot, Lowe's, and Pottery Barn to just name a few. A supply of grocery and pharmacy cards along with some other local merchant gift cards are available each Sunday (Same Day Sales) while other gift cards may be ordered for delivery the following Sunday. There are more than 500 merchants who are a part of the SCRIP program. A list of all the vendors can be found at the SCRIP TABLE each Sunday. Help THE KINGSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH reach its goal as you reach your own goals for the fall.

Together we can do more. Your participation will help us reach the Goal of \$7,500.00 dollars which will be distributed (25%) to the Board of Missions and Trustees and (50%) to our current budget as voted by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting. **Participate and help us keep on track.**

To learn more about the SCRIP Ministry stop by the SCRIP Table in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday before or after Service. We are there to answer any question you have concerning SCRIP. See you at the table. **Fall in and participate in the SCRIP Ministry today!!!**

Blanket Sunday

BLANKET SUNDAY + collection for CHURCH WORLD SERVICE will be made Sunday, October 3rd. "From something as simple as a blanket, amazing things can arise...with your help. It can provide warmth and protection to victims of a disaster...seeds and tools to struggling farmers....and water and health to impoverished communities. Over 17,000 blankets have been distributed in the U. S. in the last year, to assist those in need. Thanks to long-established partnerships in both Haiti and neighboring Dominican Republic, Church World Service was meeting needs within the first 24 hours" after the January 12 earthquake. CWS is remaining, working with partners to support the Haitian people in rebuilding their lives and livelihoods. We can be sure that CWS is also currently responding to the flooding crisis in Pakistan. Please join in reaching out to help!

Planned Giving

In response to requests from members of the congregation, The Planned Giving Committee will be hosting another workshop on Sunday, November 7th at 10:45 am in the Fireplace Room. We will discuss how you can include a bequest in your will to the Church, to be added to KCC's permanent endowment. The committee will discuss and provide materials about a way in which you can enhance your retirement income while benefiting the Church through a Charitable Gift Annuity. Please come to learn more.

Women of the Bible

Everyone knows about the men of the Bible - David, Solomon, Matthew..... but what about the women like Ruth, Esther and Judith. For four Sundays, members of Kingston Congregational and Peace Dale will join together to learn more about these women of the Bible. Entitled "Uppity Women of the Bible", this series will be offered on Sunday evenings from 5-7 and is designed so that one can attend all, some or even just one of the sessions. Peace Dale and Kingston will alternate hosting and attendees are asked to bring a potluck dish. The series will combine a video component, conversation over great food! The sessions will be facilitated by Rev. Pat Liberty, with Myrna Bizer from Peace Dale Congregational Church and Jean Miller from KCC.

Please set aside these dates: Sunday, October 17, as well as November 14, 21 and 28.

The central resource for this Christian Education opportunity will be a DVD collection featuring Lisa Michele Wolfe who earned a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Garret-Evangelical theological Seminary and Northwestern University's joint program in Religious and Theological Studies. Dr. Wolfe is an ordained UCC minister. The following are brief summaries from the collection.

October 17 - Ruth

In this session, we will explore the Book of Ruth with an eye to the vulnerability of widows and the difficult situation of foreigners in Biblical times.

November 14 - Esther

Esther, surrounded by an exotic and fanciful Persian Kingdom, proved a courageous force as she protected her people from disaster. We will dig into a complex story that ranges from slapstick farce to Shakespearean tragedy.

November 21 - Judith

Judith knew how to take things into her own hands! This session will take you from the battlefield to an art studio.

November 28 - Song of Songs

In this session we will explore the Song of Songs.

Jazz Concert in November!!!

The University of Rhode Island Music Department is coming to Kingston Congregational Church to perform a Jazz Concert. The program will be arranged by U.R.I. Music Director Joseph Parrillo. The Jazz Concert will be held in the KCC Fellowship Hall on Saturday evening, November 13th starting at 7:30PM. Tickets will be sold in advance and at the door. Refreshments will be sold with all the proceeds to benefit the general fund of KCC.

Everyone is welcome to this fun event! However, please note that we have limited capacity so buy your tickets early... don't miss out on a great evening of fantastic Jazz Music that the whole family will enjoy! Tickets will go on sale in October.

Junior High Fellowship

Jr High Fellowship is meeting for Pizza with Pastor Pat, on Sunday evening, October 3rd from 6-8PM. Call Sue Macy, 294-6513 if you have any questions.

Swords into Plowshares a film series for PEACE

We are joining other churches for this FREE fall series. Please come for the movies at 7 pm followed by discussion led by a special moderator each time. Please bring a perishable food item or toiletries for Jonnycake Center/Welcome House.

Friday, October 15th - "Johnny Got His Gun" at the Unitarian/Universalist Church at Lily Pads, Kersey Rd., Peace Dale

Friday, October 22nd - "The Mission" at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church at URI, Lower College Rd., Kingston

Friday, October 29th - "Hearts and Minds" at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Old North Rd., Kingston

Wednesday, November 3rd - "Forbidden Games" at Kingston UCC, Kingstown Rd., Kingston

Monday, November 8th - "The Short Life of Jose Antonio Gutierrez" at Congregation Beth David of Narragansett, Kingstown Rd., Narragansett

Habitat for Humanity is more than “a Build”!

Some facts you may not know:

- “South County Habitat is transforming lives of hard-working South County families”.
- Faith communities and businesses participate not only in building homes but by contributing material resources and generous financial donations.
- 10% of South County Habitat unrestricted funds go to help build homes around the world.
- Habitat families not only agree to “sweat equity” to help build their own homes and often those of others but agree to pay a mortgage (Habitat interest free).
- In 2010, the 20th Anniversary year, South County Habitat has joined with the URI Habitat Chapter to build a 20th Anniversary “Frame” House. It is on a trailer and can move from place to place. Those studs will go into an actual 20th Anniversary House.
- Lynn Baker Dooley, honorary chair of the 20th Anniversary, will be the preacher at our KCC Sunday service on October 17th.
- On the same Sunday morning the Habitat Frame House will be at KCC. For a small donation YOU may sign one of the studs!!

Info from the Mission Board

Chocoholic Frolic – S. P. N. M.

The third annual Chocoholic Frolic, an unusual fund-raiser for S.P.N.M., to excite the palates of all KingCong chocolate-lovers, will be held at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Avenue in Cranston, on Saturday, October 16, from 3 to 6 p.m. There will be a liquid fountain of chocolate in which you can dip fruit bits (strawberries, pineapple, mango, etc) with abandon; chocolate cookies, homemade fudge bars, fancy chocolate cakes, etc., will be available. There will also be an extensive silent auction of restaurant gift certificates, and many other special prizes, a raffle, hors d'oeuvres and dips to satisfy the hunger-pangs of late afternoon. Accordion music by Marc Ferrelli will be provided. It should be a great afternoon! Admission -- \$15 per person. Transportation will be provided for those interested in attending. Please see Doris Findlay or Linda Mendillo for tickets or further information. Hope to see you there!

Women's Fellowship Meeting Tuesday, October 19th 7PM

Women's Fellowship is pleased to announce that Claudia Smith has agreed to lead a book review and discussion at our October meeting. The book is "The Faith Club". It is a true story about 3 women, one Muslim, one Jewish, and one Christian, who explored each other's faith together. We think it is very timely and will be an interesting and insightful evening. As usual there will be refreshments, and a short meeting preceding the program. Women's Fellowship is open to all women and friends of KCC and I hope many of you will be able to attend.

“Journey to the Center” “Women Exploring Spirituality and Building Community” Kingston Congregational Church Women's Retreat Friday, November 5th through Sunday, November 7th. Canonicus Retreat Center, Exeter

Please come and experience a weekend of study, fellowship, and community building with other women from KCC at a KCC Women's Retreat, planned for Nov. 5th through Nov. 7th at Canonicus Retreat Center. The cost is **now \$100.00** for the weekend, which includes all lodging and meals (breakfast Sat. through lunch Sun.). Participation in the weekend is limited to 20, so sign up early and don't be left out. Please see kingconchurch.org or visit us at the harvest table in Fellowship Hall today to see an approximate outline for the weekend and to register, as well. **The registration deadline is October 8, 2010 and all deposits are NON--REFUNDABLE after October 17th.** If you wish, you may mail your registration form to Susan Snow, 171 Hundred Acre Pond Road, West Kingston, RI 02892. Remember, space is limited so make your reservations NOW. You can be sure there will be lots of fun, laughter and wonderful discussions. What a great way to get to know yourself and your friends from KCC.

See you there!

Connie Fitzelle (783-7749), Jean Miller (294-1478), Sue Snow (783-0576) and Pastor Pat



COME JOIN THE FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE FOR OUR ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15TH 6-8 PM.

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AHEAD ON SEPT 26TH, OCT 2ND & 10TH or AT THE DOOR:

ADULTS \$5, \$3 CHILDREN 5-12, UNDER 5 FREE or \$20 FOR A FAMILY.

ENJOY MEATBALL GRINDERS, TOSSED SALAD, CHIPS, APPLE CRISP AND TASTY

DRINKS

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE PUMPKIN PAINTING, DONUT DUNKING, CREEPY REACH, MUMMIES,

APPLE PIE MAKING AND HOLIDAY CRAFTS

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A FLASHLIGHT FOR THE GHOST WALK @ 7:30!!!!

Environmental Task Force

As I harvest the last of my vegetables from my garden, I'm thinking about the relationship between the food we eat and the environment. I've read two books this spring/summer about food. Fast Food Nation explores the history of the fast food industry and its relationship to our culture, workers, health and the environment. The Omnivores Dilemma deals with our food culture, health, farmers and the environment. One thing I've taken from both books is the idea that buying locally produced foods has a positive environmental effect and is also good for local farmers and probably our health as well. The problem is that it's hard to pass up fresh fruits and vegetables in winter and I really enjoy avocados, fresh pineapples, bananas, and some other foods that cannot be grown in Rhode Island. I remember not being able to find some of those foods in the grocery store when I was younger, but now that I am used to having them, I don't want to go without them. I am starting to pay more attention to where foods come from, and trying to choose local foods when possible. I would like to say that I shop at the farmers' markets regularly, but I have not yet developed that habit. I just offer the following for your consideration. Foods purchased locally from small farms save fuel used in shipping and are likely to be produced in a more environmentally friendly manner than foods from large factory farms. Organic foods are also produced in a more environmentally friendly manner. Now that I am more aware of what I am buying, I will try to consider the environment before I buy. I know some of you are doing much better with this than I am. If this is new to you, I invite you to join me in my efforts if you are so inclined. I hope to see you at the farmers' market or picking your own apples/peaches at Narrow Lane Farm in North Kingstown.

Respectfully,
Cindy Buxton from your Environmental Task Force

Frances Hatch

Fran was born in Fountain Inn, South Carolina in Greenville County. She had four older brothers and three younger sisters. She graduated from Simpsonville High School and from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S. C. She continued college for an additional year in order to get her American Dietetic Association membership.

She then obtained an internship in New York where she met John, her future husband. They met at church. John had gone to Duke and worked in Newport News, Virginia. Fran later taught at NYU where John got his masters degree. They married in New York in 1947, and moved to Dartmouth College New Hampshire where John taught for four years.

They came to URI in 1952 and immediately loved it, especially Saunderstown, where they built a house. Around that time they joined the Kingston Congregational Church. Their son Bill was born in 1952. He now lives in Lullenville, MA and has two grown children. Their daughter Sally was born in 1956 and now lives in Providence.

The family spent every summer in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. John had always loved sailing which was a main attraction in Rhode Island. Fran had never sailed until meeting John, but she learned and eventually raced and crewed for John. During her career as a dietician, Fran worked at several hospitals. Among them were the Bronx Jewish Hospital, City Hospital in New York, and eventually at South County Hospital for more than twenty years. She belonged to the Kingston Book Club, the Kingston Hill Gardeners, and Every Tuesday Club. She taught Sunday school and worked on church suppers at Kingston Congregational. John was on the investment committee for many years.

Fran served on the Saunderstown Yacht Club board. She was an avid tennis player and won awards at the tournaments. Tennis and sailing played a big part in their lives.

John died in 2008 and Fran still lives in her house in Saunderstown.

Submitted by
Jane Skogley