

The Spire

From Your Pastor

October 2011

There is a lot happening at KCC and I hope you will take time to read through this issue of the *Spire* so you can participate in the many study and learning activities that are available.

Last night we began our study of the book of Psalms and it got me to thinking about a couple things. The words of the Psalms are so human...in the one hundred and fifty poems contained in the book there are words about just about every human feeling: anger, sadness, despair and fear as well as joy, happiness, gratitude and more.

There is something comforting about that. So often we hear more about the joy and the happiness and all the positive things we are “supposed” to be feeling and we don’t talk much about the other experiences of life that we all share.

This is true of our Sunday morning worship time as well. Over the last few weeks I have preached on topics like forgiveness and being in the wilderness and have heard from many of you that it spoke to something you are going through or have been through.

And we share in some of the sadness and frustration of the Search Committee as they continue their work. We need to be together in worship to remind ourselves that God is in our midst and that God is in our process no matter how long it takes or how stressful it is.

And all that reminds me that being a church and being a community is about ALL of our humanness, the joy as well as the sorrow, the good as well as the not so good. There is a lot of uncertainty and sadness and pain in the community that gathers on Sunday morning for worship. And there is room for all of it; what you bring is welcome in the community of the faithful.

So, if you have been thinking about coming back to church but worry that you are not in the “right” place....come anyway. If you are putting on a big smile to cover over a sadness or a hurt....put it away and come as you are. Worship is the biggest “come as you are” gathering on the planet.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome at KCC. We say it or read it each week and we mean it. Come with your sadness or your joy. Come as you are and be reminded of the great truth that God’s love is unshakeable, God’s mercy is new every morning, and God’s tenderness reaches to us all.

See you in church and other places.
Pastor Pat

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

October's Deacon of the Month is Tracy Heffron.

Planned Giving Workshop

I support the Church's mission through my annual giving; why should I consider supporting it after I die?

How can I take care of my children in my will and still make a small bequest to the Church? Does my will need to be changed?

How can I save my children estate and income taxes and help build the Church's permanent endowment at the same time?

What is the Church's permanent endowment? How does it support the Church's mission? How and by whom is it managed? Why is it important?

For answers to these and any other questions that you may have, The Kingston Congregational Church Planned Giving Committee is sponsoring a short planned giving workshop on Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 10:45 am in the Fireplace Room. Mark your calendar and please come!

Kingston Congregational Church Planned Giving Committee

Invitation to Participate: New Board of Membership

Under the newly adopted by-laws, the BOARD OF MEMBERSHIP was created in the interest of attracting and nurturing new members and in sustaining all members of KCC. The associated activities will be focused on growing and maintaining our membership. As such, the Board will look to: Welcome and Assimilate new members into the Church and to follow up with existing members, as appropriate, to encourage/support their continued participation in the Church.

As per the by-laws, the Board will have 5 members. However, it is anticipated that others will be needed to carry out the identified activities. So if you are interested in considering being a member of the MEMBERSHIP BOARD or assisting in some of its sub-group's activities, then please contact Brad Asher or Tom Butcher.

PS. In the interim, while we're getting the Board up and running please help make KCC a "Welcoming" church community by:

- 1) On Sunday, take a look around the Fellowship Hall; if you see a new face, then make an effort to introduce yourself and welcome the person to KCC.**
- 2) Please remember to wear your KCC name tag.**

The Kingston Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 5, 2011

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED:

KCC Quarterly Meeting minutes
KCC Quarterly Meeting Agenda, JUNE 5, 2011
KCC Treasurer's Report
Budget for FY 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Jim Aukerman called the meeting to order at 10:40AM and declared a quorum. It was M/S/P to adopt the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 17, 2011 – M/S/P

REPORTS:

Stewardship - Tom Heald thanked the team for all the hard work. As of 6/2/2011 there were 151 pledges for a total of \$234,090.00. Tom noted that 56 % of pledge units increased their pledges.

Treasurer - Dick Geisler reported that the pledge and plate receipts were down, the endowment income was down, the Trustees had some extra expenses this year and the quarter ended with a \$8,800.00 deficit.

Search Committee - Bill Bartels reported that the search committee narrowed it down to two candidates and one took another position and one turned down the offer. The committee is currently reviewing more profiles. He stated that we will not have a new minister anytime soon, the process takes time and they are really starting again. Jim Findlay has stepped down from the committee with regret.

Budget - Dick Geisler presented the budget for FY2012. Discussion ensued. It was M/S/P to approve the budget.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Tom thanked everyone on the Search Committee, Trustees and Dick Geisler for all their hard work. He cautioned that we need patience as the new committees in the by-laws are transitioned in.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pat stated that we need to work on implementing the new by-laws and we need trust and patience. We need to shift from a Pastor centered church to a program centered church. We need to pay attention to new member retention and we need to stick together in the process of finding a new pastor. She also commented that Stewardship did a great job.

CLOSING PRAYER: Pat closed the quarterly meeting with a prayer at 11:15AM.

Respectfully recorded by Nancy Holland, Clerk

Annual Fall Festival

Sponsored by Family Life Committee

Friday, October 14th – 6-8pm in Fellowship Hall

Come join the fall fun with
pumpkin decorating, ghost walk, apple pie making and other fun activities!
\$5/adults, \$3/kids – Family max \$20
Meatball subs, apple crisp and cider
Be sure to bring a flashlight for the ghost walk!

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.

Feed the Hungry

All of us at KCC are now involved in MISSION 1: the national UCC's ONE UNITED CHURCH shared mission to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice.

Many of us have been asking how we can help with local hunger –and now the famine in Africa. MISSION 1 addresses both of these huge problems.

ONE MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD

You've seen the "Mission 1" Table in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour – by November 11, churches all across the country will have given more than one million healthy food items to local food banks! We're doing our part with over 50 items each week (maybe twice that many by the time you read this) which we will report to the national church in November to add to their online tote board.

\$111,111 for Neighbors in Need Hunger-related Missions

---plus an extra \$111,111 for UCC's East Africa famine appeal

All monetary gifts made to "Mission 1" in November during 11- 1-11 will be divided equally between Neighbors in Need hunger ministries in the US and the UCC's East Africa famine appeal. The first offering coincides with our yearly Neighbors in Need offering at KCC, and the second, which has just been added by overwhelming support of UCC members, will be our chance to reach out internationally in this great need.

LETTERS TO CONGRESS

In 11 days, the UCC will offer more than 11,111 letters to congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people of the world, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 'offering of letters' campaign. At KCC we will present a petition, with as many of our signatures as possible.

It's an exciting time in the life of our national church. We feel privileged to be part of this powerful movement.

In addition, on Thanksgiving Day we plan to have our second Annual Community Dinner at KCC. See the Weathervane and Church Bulletins for updates on these events.

Scrip Fall Edition

Think fall cleanup

Home Depot

Lowe's

Walmart

Jump start Thanksgiving shopping with grocery cards.

Come visit us every Sunday—we're very friendly—bring your check book or credit card.

Open Space, Open Hearts

Tending the Land and Feeding our Spirits

In the book of Genesis humans are given the responsibility and privilege of tending to creation, being partners with God in looking after this beautiful and wonderful planet we call home. It may be that we think about that when we are on vacation in the mountains or walking along the beach and that is a good thing. We also have the opportunity to think about it as we tend a piece of land closer to home.

Have you ever heard of the Biscuit City Preserve? It is a property managed by the South Kingstown Land Trust and it has a rich history in our community. In the early days of Kingstown Village a Spring House supplied water for the entire village. In later years a cotton mill provided jobs.

Now it is preserved as an open space and that space needs YOU.

On October 15, 2011 KCC families and individuals will have the opportunity to work together on the Biscuit City property and help preserve this historic landmark. We will gather at KCC at 10:00 for a time of study and reflection about being stewards of the land. We will also learn more about the significance of this property for the village of Kingston. Then we'll share a simple lunch and head out to work on projects the Land Trust has selected for us.

Our Church School curriculum is celebrating creation this fall and this time together is a perfect complement to their studies. Space is limited so you need to act soon. Ten adults plus children over 8 is the limit. You can register by visiting our website: www.kingconchurch.org and clicking on Open Hearts and Open Space. Or you can call the church office at 783-5330.

This is the first project of the Hayes Memorial Mission Fund started by Fredericka Bettinger in memory of her late husband Franz U. Hayes. He was a faithful example of being a good steward of the land and the Memorial Mission Fund both honors his memory and continues his legacy. We hope you will join us.

Women's Fellowship Program on Romania

Have you ever visited Romania, wanted to visit or wondered about the country and its people? Please join Pastor Pat and Jean Miller who will give a power point informational program on Tuesday, October 11th at 7 pm covering the political, health, and geographical background of the country which makes Hospice such a BIG DEAL. Both worked in Bucharest and Brasov in Transylvania so have plenty to share. If you heard or listened online to their joint sermon about Hospice in Romania, never fear.....this episode will be quite different. Women's Fellowship sponsors the program and welcomes ALL members and friends of the church to attend. We hope to see you there.

Don Hermes Speaking On Alaska: Beautiful Pictures...Glaciers, Volcanoes, Earthquakes...

The Board of Missions is excited to announce that we have Don Hermes, retired geology professor and member of Peace Dale Congregational Church, coming to speak to us about Alaska. He will bring a power point with beautiful pictures and discuss glaciers, volcanoes and earthquakes and the environmental impact of climate change. You will not want to miss this presentation! The presentation will begin at 7PM Friday, October 14th. Join us for a great evening. We will provide snacks and beverages.

OA Meetings

OA Meetings are held each Wednesday evening from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. (Upstairs, above the office – come in through the kitchen door. See you there!! :)

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries

4th Annual

Chocoholic Frolic & Silent Auction

October 8, 2011

2:30—6:00 pm

Philips Memorial Baptist Church, Cranston, RI

\$15 pp RSVP by September 28

Auction items include:

*Restaurant Gift Certificates, Sports and Theater Tickets,
Baskets, Trips and much more!*

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries

4th Annual Chocoholic Frolic and Silent Auction

October 8, 2011

Name _____ Phone _____

_____ Tickets @ \$15 each = _____

I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my gift for SPNM = _____

TOTAL = _____

Make checks payable to *South Providence Neighborhood Ministries*.

Tickets will be held at the door. **RSVP by September 28, 2011.**

For more information call: 401-461-7509 or Email: info@spsnm.org

Proceeds support the work of South Providence Neighborhood Ministries.