The Spire

From Your Pastor

September 2008

I remember a story my Pastor told when I was a child and I came forward for the Time with the Children. It was one of those simple messages that stayed with me. He explained that the word "*gospel*" begins with the letters G-O-S and those letters stand for how we should order what is important: **G**od – **O**thers – **S**elf. I'm not sure if he had a meaning for the rest of the word, but ever since *Gospel* has reminded me to put God first, others second, and myself third.

Jesus taught the same in the Sermon on the Mount: *"Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness…"* (Matthew 6:33). Notice his use of the word *first*. In his story of the Good Samaritan, he explained what comes second: others. If we get anything wrong, it is not WHAT we cherish, but the order: God. Others. Self.

One of the great values to belonging to a church is being reminded of this simple order – in worship, in educational programs, in song, in publications, and in our fellowship with one another. Although we may fail in pursuing this order of G – O – S, we cannot help but be brought back to the desire of God's heart when we gather as God's people. Again and again, the gospel calls us to re-order life's priorities. When we fail, it gives us grace and asks us to start anew with the right order: G – O – S.

What is true for us as individuals is also true for us as a community of faith. The measure of a church's success is its faithfulness to God. I am curious to hear churches boast about how busy they are. Busy is not a value of the gospel. I am curious to see a few treasure the preservation of their church's physical facility or the health of their balanced budget. These are not unimportant, but they are not first. They are the "*S*," not the "*G*" or the "*O*." How is your church succeeding in its pursuit of the GOSpel?

Same for us as people: our well-being, especially in this threatening economy, raises concerns and worries. That is the "S." Simply being busy counts little if at all. The order of what we cherish is preeminent. Where is the G and the O?

At the Kingston Congregational Church, we have recently completed a Strategic Planning Survey and will soon hold meetings to discuss the church we wish to become in the next five years. I encourage every member to apply the "G-O-S" formula to your priority. Ask of your church… and ask your leaders: *"How are we growing in our faithfulness to God and our service to others?"* That is the key test for an effective congregation.

Challenge yourself in the same way: recognize that basic instincts may lead you to reverse the order. With God's help and by God's grace, determine to order your life as your loving and compassionate God desires of you.

– Pastor 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 SEPTEMBER

September 7 Message: *What is God's will for your life?* Church School Open House 9 – 9:30 am. Time with the Children featuring Joanne Gyorgy. Church School begins. Communion. Farewell to Kevin Munroe. Sermon Talk-back following worship, in the Fireplace Room. Church picnic at noon.

September 14 Message: *From a Distance*.
Second Hour: Discussion about choir loft renovation.

September 21 Message: *The Teaching Methods of Jesus*. Our Covenant with our Educators. After worship: Meeting for those wishing to join the Kingston Congregational Church.

September 28 Message: *Pearls in the Bible*. SPECIAL INVITATION: Everyone wear pearls today! Reception of New Members. Adult Education begins today, following worship, in Fireplace Room, with leader Mike Coffey: *The Gospel of Mark*.

September's Deacon of the Month is Kevin Pelton.

Would you like to join the Kingston Congregational Church?

A meeting will be held **September 21** following the worship service for those wishing to consider membership in the Church. Please enjoy some brief refreshments at Coffee Hour and then come to the Fireplace Room (directions available at The Welcome Table in Fellowship Hall) to meet with Pastor John Zehring and a member of the Board of Deacons.

Baptism

Lilah Arlene Simoes	Parents: Marc and Amy Simoes	June 15, 2008
Sara Kyungme Munroe	Parents: Scott Munroe and Lauren Kim Munroe	June 22, 2008

In Sympathy

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to the following families:

The family of the Rev. Dr. Sam Fogel, KCC's former interim minister, who passed away on July 5th. The Rev. Fogel is fondly remembered as having spent endless hours at KCC and was always available to members of the congregation. A memorial service was held on July 12th in Connecticut.

The family of Jim Hoefer who died on June 21st. Jim and his wife, Robin lived in North Palm Beach, FL and came back to Charlestown in summertime and worshipped at KCC. A service led by the Rev. John Zehring was held on August 30th at Swan Point in Rhode Island.

The family of Cliff Cosgrove who died on July 24th. A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary on September 6th at 11:00 am.

The family of Marion Thompson who died on August 18th. A memorial service was held on August 22nd.

September 13: **Leaders Retreat**, for staff and Board chairs. At the Zehrings, 9 am to 2 pm. Special guest leader: Chuck Barnes, Conference Minister.

ALL BOARDS MEETING: September 17 at 7 pm in Sanctuary

In September and February, all of our Boards meet together on one night rather than during their regularly scheduled times so that we may gather as a whole, see who is on other boards, receive information from the Church Council President and a charge from the Senior Pastor.

There are no regularly scheduled Board meetings in September. All Boards meet September 17 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Committees are also welcome to meet on this evening.

ADULT EDUCATION FOR 2008-09

This year, many of the adult education courses will be offered following worship on Sunday morning. See that page in this issue listing all offerings.

FALL: **September 28, October 5, 12** – Second Hour, following worship
INSTRUCTOR: Mike Coffey
TOPIC: The Gospel of Mark

Adult Education 2008 – 2009

FALL:	**September 28, October 5, 12** – Second Hour, following worship INSTRUCTOR: Mike Coffey TOPIC: The Gospel of Mark

FALL:	**November 16** – Second Hour, following worship INSTRUCTOR: Sharon Davis TOPIC: A Sacred Conversation on Race, continued: My Story

WINTER:	**February 10, 17, and March 3** – Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m. INSTRUCTOR: Jim Findlay TOPIC: Ecumenism

WINTER:	**March 8, 15, 22** – Second Hour, following worship INSTRUCTOR: Jeff Richardson TOPIC: World Religions

SPRING:	**April 19** – Second Hour, following worship LEADER: Glenn Kumekawa. TOPIC: The legacy and lessons learned at a time of National Crisis: Internment of persons of Japanese Ancestry during World War II

SPRING:	**May 11, 18, 25** – Monday evenings, 7 p.m. INSTRUCTOR: Cindy Dowgiallo TOPIC: Moms & Faith. Questions children ask about God. Bullies. Conversations.

ONGOING:	Sundays following worship CONVENOR: Pastor John Zehring TOPIC: Sermon Talk Back

KCC Executive Summary of the Strategic Planning Survey Results

The responses received from the strategic planning survey came from 14% of the active people listed on our church roster, 92 % are members. 37% were men, 63% women. 60% age 65 or older, 68% 51 or older. 85% married, 68% no children at home. 20% have been attending church 5 years or less, 80% live within a 20-minute drive of the church.

Finances & Annual Budget

- Present a balanced annual budget
- Pledge support: increase number & amount of pledges
- Grow, through planned giving, and protect the endowment fund to provide for future needs and opportunities.
- Formalize fund raising and target the extended community to address current needs, emergencies, and expanded programs.

Membership Growth

- Worship service is very good – continue the quality and form (75% response).
- Need to develop programs/activities to get more people actively involved.
- Need consistent follow-up & rejuvenation in programs…problems remain the same year after year.
- Promote strengths of KCC in print & community outreach projects.
- Keep youth involved in church & community projects
- Sponsor more social events, e.g. family church suppers, student "mixers", etc.
- Establish a licensed day-care program to attract new members.
- Address the needs of older members, youth, young parents, and "20-somethings".
- Reach out to non-attending members.

Membership Active Participation

- Use the website to provide more visibility of on-going programs where members could participate.
- Publish list & update quarterly, programs identifying people who need assistance; physical, spiritual and moral support.
- Get more members involved in promoting the strengths of KCC to "others".
- Establish programs to reach all age groups, i.e., people to people invitations, student oriented programs, church dinners, etc.
- Address specific needs of older members, youth, and young parents.
- Establish procedures for acknowledging people experiencing difficulties, and provide appropriate support.
- Publish a list of "help needed" opportunities for established church programs, in the church bulletin and on the church website.

Missions

- Publicize mission outreach projects.
- Reach out to URI students and faculty
- Focus mission initiatives on 2 or 3 specific causes
- Promote social action at local level

Property Maintenance

- Address parking problem
- Build and furnish a new kitchen
- Choir loft, provide emergency egress; outdoor fire escape stairs, etc.
- Building maintenance, safety, and grounds. Establish a prioritized schedule of projects.
- Modernization of physical plant

Staffing

- Maintain strong church school
- Provide adequate salary & benefits for staff
- Pastoral support…define duties & requirements for "assistant to the pastor"
- Publish job descriptions, requirements, & responsibilities for every paid staff position.
- Assign responsibility for bi-annual review of organization and governance of KCC.

Christian Education and Other Programs

- Sustain music program
- Cooperative garden to help feed the needy.
- More progressive suppers & blue jean Sundays
- Sunday social events for students
- Promote ecumenical programs/interaction
- Internship for divinity students
- Provide adult classes

KCC Organ and Organ Façade Modification Fact Sheet
June 22, 2008

1977– A 1909 M.P. Moeller Opus #1033 organ was rebuilt by the Stuart Organ Company and relocated from a Methodist Church in Solvay, New York to the Kingston Congregational Church in Kingston, Rhode Island.
1999 – The KCC Church voted for Option Five: to purchase a Rodgers Organ Company Model 950 Three annual, 48 stop digital pipe organ and incorporate the ten best ranks of pipes from the Stuart organ to create a pipe-and-digital instrument of 58 ranks. The organ case (façade) would be moved back six feet to allow more space for the choir and some of the pipe sounds would be retained. The estimated cost was $99,530.00 ($59,790.00 for the digital organ and $39,740 for the pipe organ renovation and integration). A fund raising capital campaign was initiated in 1999 and completed in 2001. The final payment for the organ was March 31, 2001. Rogers Organ Company hired Potter-Rathbun to remove the pipes. Ted Bradley, KCC's former sexton obtained the old pipes from Potter-Rathbun.

The other options at the time of the vote were:
Option One – Restore the organ to its 1977 condition. This would cost $150,000.00 and would necessarily leave the church with the existing physical location of the organ and attached console. This solution did address the matter of choir placement.
Option Two – Restore the three deteriorated ranks, rebuild the swell box and wind chests as needed, and clean/restore the tracker mechanisms for $50,000.00. We would have had a functioning organ but it would not have been restored to its 1977 condition nor would it have made provision for future deterioration of the thirteen ranks of un-restored pipes. Because it retained the existing location of organ and console, it did not speak to the matter of choir placement.
Option Three – Do nothing except minimal maintenance and tuning. This would have resulted in a nonfunctioning organ within a short period of time.
Option Four – Install a Rodgers three-manual, 48 rank Model 950 digital console with digital sound-source elements installed behind the existing organ case for $60,000.00. The existing organ/console would have remained in place but be non-functional. The choir space would also have remained limited.

2007-2008 – The membership of the church choir has grown and the lack of space in the choir loft has again been brought to the attention of the Music Committee and the Board of Trustees. Several people suggested that the organ façade (case) be cut down by four feet and moved closer to the back wall. This would also require removing the remaining ten ranks of pipes and relocating the electronics for the digital organ.

Sharon Davis, Chairperson of the Trustees obtained the following quotes (Option One):

Rodgers – cost of removing the electronics and speakers before the pipes are taken out and replacing them after the façade is moved four feet closer to the back wall - $2,600.00.

Sibley Smith – carpentry cost of cutting down the façade and moving it four feet - $1,825.00.
Ted Bradley – will remove the pipes for their salvage value and make a $500.00 contribution to the church to help reduce the other costs of this project.
Potter-Rathbun – will remove the pipes for their salvage value.

If we use Rodgers, Sibley Smith and Ted Bradley the net cost of this project would be $3,925.00. **It is recommended that the Trustees fund the project from their budget excess.** However, special donations from the congregation would still be welcomed. Option One would allow two to three additional rows of seats to be added to the center of the choir loft in front of the relocated organ façade. This would provide for a more cohesive choir sound and allow the choir to continue to grow from a strategic standpoint. The congregation would still see the front of the façade as they have always seen it. The total digital sound of the organ without the use of the pipes has been heard most of the time due to the problems of keeping the pipes in tune.

Beverly Stringer, co-chair of the Music Committee, Martha Hartman, musician, Phyllis Whitehead, musician and Sharon Davis, chair of the Trustees met with Ted Bradley to obtain an independent technical opinion of our combination pipe-digital organ. Ted Bradley and Enrico Garzilli will be available to lead a technical discussion of the organ and demonstrate the sound of the digital organ alone versus the sound of the combination digital organ and pipes at the **Organ Open Forum on September 14, 2008 at 10:45am.**

Option Two – Do nothing.

Potential Schedule of Events if Option One is chosen:

Organ Open Forum	September 14, 2008	10:45am
Music Committee, Deacons, and Trustees-vote on recommending the Organ Façade Renovation project to the Church Council	September 17, 2008 (All Boards Meeting Night)	7:00pm
Church Council approves the recommendation to be brought before the congregation at the October 26, 2008 quarterly meeting	September 24, 2008 October 22, 2008	7:00pm or 7:00pm
Congregation votes on the recommendation at the October quarterly meeting	October 26, 2008	10:45am
Rodgers removes electronics and speakers Ted Bradley removes the pipes Sibley Smith cuts down the façade and moves it to the back wall Rodgers replaces the electronics and speakers	December 29, 2008-January 9, 2009	

Church Picnic

The Family Life Committee invites one and all to our Annual Church Picnic, this year at ***Tuckertown Park*,** South Kingstown, Rhode Island, from 12:00-3:00 on September 7, 2008. We will grill delicious hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggieburgers for you, and will provide chips, condiments, and salads. Please bring a dessert or beverage to share, lawn chairs or blanket, & Come ready to Play! Bring a glove for softball, or enjoy playing Frisbee, bocce, or croquet. This park also has a playground and basketball courts. We look forward to seeing you all there!

DIRECTIONS TO **TUCKERTOWN PARK**

From the Church:

1) Turn LEFT from the parking lot onto Route 138 West.
2) Turn LEFT onto Ministerial Road / Route 110.
3) After 3.8 miles, turn LEFT onto Tuckertown Road.
4) The park entrance is to the RIGHT after .3 miles.

Meet us at the picnic pavilion. Follow the driveway as it curves to the left.

Brick Walkway

We are offering you another opportunity to purchase an engraved brick to add to our brick walkway. Please fill out the enclosed pink form or pick one up in Fellowship Hall and return it to the church office along with your check for $100. Checks may be made payable to KCC and please write BRICK in the memo section. If you choose to use more letters than this form allows, kindly add $5 per line to your order. This is a nice way to remember loved ones, to celebrate special dates (baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, graduations etc.) and/or to add your own names to our brick walkway by the gardens.

Stop by the walkway and see what you and your friends have had engraved on the bricks. It's fun to read them. Your donation is a pleasant way to help KCC via a fund raiser too. For questions, call Audrey Hallberg at 364-0803. Thank you.

Please Help

KCC's kitchen is missing over 20 tablecloths! Can you help us to locate them? If you have any information regarding the tablecloths, please contact the church office. Thank you!

KCC Music Series Concert
Klezphonics Performance

Klezphonics will perform at KCC in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 21 at 1:30 pm. Donations of $15 will be gratefully accepted at the door.

Missions Celebration Dinner Coming up October 10

Your Missions Board is planning a "Celebration of our Missions" pot luck dinner for October 10 at 6 p.m. We would really like to have you know as much as possible about what we do – including our revised budget for Missions' Projects and special offerings not in the budget--so representatives from our local and state mission recipients will speak (briefly!) and we'll have posters and other information for others. We are hoping to see every church member that Friday night, and we'll exhibit the material for those who couldn't attend after church in coffee hour on Sunday, October 12. See you there!

Tina Letcher for the Missions Board

SPNM Chocoholic Frolic – Help Needed

At 3 p.m. on Saturday. October 18th, at Camp Canonicus in nearby Exeter, South Providence Neighborhood Ministries will begin its first "Chocoholic Frolic"--chocolate lovers beware! This will be a fun time and a fund-raiser combined. The chief food available will be myriad varieties of chocolate goodies, and you can dip and sip from a literal fountain of molten chocolate! There will also be a large silent auction. We are searching RIGHT NOW for food items, gift certificates, vacation getaways, plants, handicrafts, etc that can be donated for the auction on October 18th. Let your imagination soar and create a donation! If you have suggestions or something specific to donate, please call *immediately* Jim-Doris Findlay, 783-2254 or Linda Mendillo, 789-0937.

Fundraising Update

1. **BALTIC CRUISE**. The mid-July trip to ports of call on the Baltic Sea was a very enjoyable experience by all accounts. Sixty-seven KCC members and friends (as well as 2000+ other "close" acquaintances) sailed on the Crown Princess for 10 days. As part of the package pricing, the Church will realize over $5000 toward our fund raising goal for 2008.

2. "**KCC" -KEEPING CHANGE COUNTS**. Beginning in July, we started this effort to collect our weekly loose change. If you focus on it, it's amazing how much change you accumulate on a daily/weekly basis. Containers are in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. To date we have collected nearly $300. As we move into the active Fall season, it is hoped that we can make good strides toward our goal of $3000 by year's end.

3. **1ST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING. Saturday, September 27th at Laurel Lane**. Tee Times are from 12:30 to 2PM, with a cookout back at the Church after golf. The **$100 Entry Fee** includes golf and the meal. Non-players are welcome to join the golfers at the cookout (and listen to the stories about the putts that didn't drop) and join in the fellowship. The event's Cash Raffle will be open anyone who wants to take a chance; we'll be selling tickets each Sunday in September. So talk with your friends and get a foursome together for the 27th. A sign up poster is in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Tom Butcher or Jim Ross for more details. PS. We're looking for a couple of non-golfers to serve as our cookout grill masters.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School will start this year on September 7th for Nursery through grade 8. Classroom assignments will be posted on the Church School Bulletin Board August 31st.

Calling all Parents!!
Please join the CE Board for a
CHURCH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Sunday September 7th from 9-9:30 am
Come "downstairs", grab a cup of coffee and some home-baked goodies, while you:

- Meet this year's teachers
- See what your child will be learning
- Get information about Safe Church Policies

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

All children must register for Church School. Please take the time to register your child. It is very important to have accurate records of who is attending church school. Accurate records allow us to keep the children safe by knowing to whom children can be released at the end of class, and by being aware of any allergies or medical conditions that they may have. It also allows us to have adequate supplies for every child and enough teachers and helpers for each class. **You can now register on-line at www.kingcongchurch.org !** Registration forms will also be available at the Activity Time on August 31st, at the Open House on September 7th, and also in every classroom.

Volunteers are still welcome for church school this year!

If you have a child, grandchild or young friend and are looking for a way to spend some special time with him or her, or you just enjoy spending time with children, please consider volunteering in our church school. This is a great way to contribute to the education and formation of Christian youth here at the Kingston Congregational Church. Nurturing the Christian development of our young people is a wonderful and rewarding ministry, so please prayerfully consider if this is something that God is calling you to do. **We are in special need of teachers and teaching assistants**. Worried that you do not know enough about the Bible to be a teacher? Have no fear! Training is available – teaching is also a great way to "brush up" your own knowledge of the bible stories. To volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact Joanne Gyorgy at 294-7437 or e-mail her at: **jogyorgy@verizon.net**.

Women's Fellowship
First Meeting of the Season

Pot Luck Supper and Sharing

Monday, September 8th at 6 PM

Gail Rudginsky
born 5/9/1948, died 8/26/2007

As many of you know, Gail Rudginsky died last year and her ashes were buried in our KCC (Old Fernwood) cemetery, in a plot that was donated. A graveside service was held on October 11th, 2007, followed by a Remembrance Service on November 18th after church in the Fireplace Room. Some of us who knew Gail would like to purchase a simple marker for her grave site that includes her name and dates of birth and death. The estimated cost for this is about $650. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please send in a check made out to: KCC Cemetery Fund-Gail or put cash in an envelope marked "Gail" into the offering plate. Our goal is to have the marker in place by the anniversary of her death or by October 11th. Thank you. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Rowe-Drake 789-8910.

Library News

New books have been donated to our KCC library over the summer. Please look them over.

Names and Addresses

Please check the address label on the cover of this newsletter and notify the church office of any errors in spelling or information.

If you know someone who isn't receiving the *Spire*, but would appreciate it, please tell the office.

If you would like your name removed from the mailing list, please notify the church office.

Thank you.