

# The Spire

**F**rom Your Pastor

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September 2010

Well, summer is over and it sure did go fast! I look forward to seeing many of you as you return to your fall routine. **SEPTEMBER 12, 2010** is welcome back Sunday. Special music and lively worship will fill the morning. See you there.

As we continue in Interim time there is still work for us to do. Your leaders continue to pursue by-law changes and updates to the organizational structure, opportunities to garner greater resolution with events of the past, and opportunities for spiritual growth as we look to the future.

I realize many are anxious for a new settled pastor to arrive and the Search Committee is being diligent in their work. However, Interim time is also important in the life of the church, a different rhythm of work and ministry that needs our attention and our efforts.

The work of Interim time centers around five specific areas of work: The first is coming to terms with history. And as I have spoken of many times, we have some significant work to do there. This fall your leaders will offer an opportunity to address that need.

The second task is exploring identity and direction. First and foremost this is a discernment task, seeking God's guidance as we consider the work we are called to in the coming years. What will KCC look like in five years? In ten years? How will we get from here to there?

The third task is making leadership changes. When there is pastoral transition it is natural for some leaders to transition out and new leaders to come forward. Supporting new leaders as they develop their skills and thanking outgoing leaders for their service is an important part of this in between time.

The fourth task is creating linkages. In part this has to do with denominational identity. Who are we as a member of the United Church of Christ? What do we believe and how do we live our connection to the wider church? How well do we claim our heritage and history?

Finally, there is commitment to a new direction and new leadership. As we gain clarity with the tasks listed above, a new energy grows for the future and excitement about new leadership grows.

A successful settled ministry in the future depends on our faithfulness to the Interim tasks of this in between time.

As always, I invite conversation about our shared ministry and interim time. My regular office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00- 12:00 and others by appointment. I can be reached at [pliberty@kingconchurch.org](mailto:pliberty@kingconchurch.org) or by cell phone at 499-7752.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Pat

**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)

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*September's Deacon of the Month is Andrea Richardson.*

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### ***Baptism:***

Morgan Francesca Luzzi	Parents: Joseph and Jodie Luzzi	June 27, 2010
Aiden Christopher Cummiskey	Parents: Christopher and Kristen Cummiskey	July 4, 2010
Lauren Elizabeth Coleman	Parents: James and Amy Coleman	July 11, 2010

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### ***In Sympathy***

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to the Andrew family on the death of Mellissa Andrew who died on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

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## **Sunday Service Flower Donation**

If you would like to make a flower donation for any Sunday Service, please fill out the pink flower card found in the pew card holder and submit it to the office or into Sunday's collection plate. All donations are \$50 and a member of the flower committee will contact you to confirm date and write-up. If possible, please try to submit your request at least one month prior to your requested date.

Thank you!  
The Flower Committee

## **Planned Giving**

The Planned Giving Committee is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to The Spire Society. The Society recognizes and celebrates those who have included Kingston Congregational Church in their estate plans. One member has included a \$5000 bequest to KCC in his will. Another has established a substantial Charitable Gift Annuity through the United Church of Christ for her benefit during her lifetime and for the benefit of KCC's permanent endowment upon her death. If you would like more information about how you can give back something to the church in your estate plan, please contact one of the following Planned Giving Committee members: Steve White, Jim Aukerman, Liz McNab, Tom Butcher or Karin Aukerman.

## **Scripture Readings for September 2010**

### **September 5, 2010**

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33

### **September 12, 2010**

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
**HOMECOMING SUNDAY**  
Welcome back choir!  
**ALL CHURCH PICNIC**  
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14  
1 Timothy 1:12-217 Luke 15:1-10

### **September 19, 2010**

#### **Immigration**

#### **Awareness Sunday**

Non lectionary texts

Deuteronomy 24:14-22 Psalm 146:1-9  
Matthew 25:31-46

**Sermon Talk Back in the Fireplace Room**

### **September 26, 2010**

Second Hour Guest: Bill Shuey, Executive Director  
International Institute  
Non lectionary texts  
Jeremiah 7:5-7  
Romans 12:9-21 Ephesians 2:17-22

**COMING IN OCTOBER: LECTIONARY AT LUNCH  
BIBLE STUDY ON THE TEXTS FOR THE COMING WEEK  
THURSDAYS 12:00 IN THE FIREPLACE ROOM  
BRING YOUR LUNCH AND EXPLORE THE SCRIPTURES!  
BEGINS OCTOBER 7, 2010**

## **Church Picnic**

The Family Life Committee invites you to the annual Church Picnic on Sunday, September 12, 2010 from 12:00 - 3:00 at West Kingston Park. Enjoy the last days of summer and delicious picnic fare with your church family members.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual KCC Golf Outing Fundraiser Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**

Laurel Lane Golf Club  
1pm Shotgun Start  
\$100 Entry Fee  
Sign Up Sheet in Fellowship Hall

## **KCC Scrip Express**

**DON'T FORGET SCRIP FOR FALL/ SCHOOL NEEDS!**

**COLLEGE STUDENTS — BED BATH AND BEYOND, WALMART, SEARS,  
KOHLS, MACYS, AMAZON**

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES — STAPLES, OFFICE DEPOT, OFFICE MAX, RADIO SHACK**

**CLOTHES — MACYS, AMERICAN EAGLE, GAP, WALMART**

**FALL SPORTS — SPORTS AUTHORITY, DICKS**

- **To Date \$130,000 in Scrip Card Sales with \$5800 to KCC ministries. OUTSTANDING!!!!**
- **DAVE'S MARKET – ACCEPTING ORDERS AND PAYMENT 9/12 AND 9/19 FOR DISTRIBUTION 9/26.**
- **VISIT THE SCRIP TABLE BEFORE AND AFTER CHURCH – CHECKS, DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.**

## **Library Note**

Helen Behrens has donated a wonderful book in loving memory of Herbert. It is entitled The Faith Instinct - How Religion Evolved and Why It Endures by Nicholas Wade. Thank you, Helen.

Tracy Heffron  
Librarian

## **Women's Retreat**

**"Journey to the Center: Women Exploring Spirituality and Building Community"**

November 5-7

Canonicus, Exeter, RI

For more information, see upcoming events at [www.kingcongcjurch.org](http://www.kingcongcjurch.org).

# Church School News

It is hard to believe that it is almost the end of the summer – and time to think about “back to (church) school” again!

## **We are in dire need of teachers for church school this year!**

The quality church school program that you have come to expect for the children of KCC cannot continue without dedicated adult volunteers in the classrooms.

- Each class has “teams” of two or three teachers so that one person does not teach every week.
- Training is provided as well as on-going training and support through teacher meetings
- For questions or more information contact Joanne Gyorgy ([jogyorgy@verizon.net](mailto:jogyorgy@verizon.net) or 447-4385)

**Church School begins this year on September 12<sup>th</sup> with a Church School Open House** at 9am. Come join members of the CE Board, the Church School Director, and your children’s teachers for a cup of coffee before the service.

## **Church School Registration**

Please remember that **all children need to be registered for church school.**

Registration Forms will be available at the Open House and in the Church Office. It is also easy to register on-line at the church’s web site, [www.kingconchurch.org](http://www.kingconchurch.org) .

**Church School Wish List:** If anyone could donate these items, please let Joanne know:

- Toys for the Nursery (no stuffed animals or toys with small parts)

## **Women’s Fellowship**

First Meeting of the  
New Season

Pot Luck Supper and Sharing

Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM

## **Welding Job Needed**

If anyone has access to an acetylene torch welder, please contact Andy Cournoyer at 789-8836. A gate at the Old Fernwood Cemetery needs a spot welding.

Thank you.

## News from the Board of Missions

We have received thank you notes from the following groups we have supported during 2010. Here are excerpts from these letters:

### Jonnycake Center:

“On behalf of Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale and the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you and your congregation for your generous gift of \$1,328.00 received on 1/12/2010.

The number of people coming to us for assistance has increased dramatically over the past several years, and the need for our service continues to grow on a daily basis. Just in the past two months alone we had 116 new households come to us for help. We have distributed enough food for well over 300,000 meals since the beginning of 2009, and provided Thanksgiving and December holiday dinners to 188 households.”

### South County Habitat for Humanity:

“Thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00 (in January and \$1,000.00 received in July) and continued support as a congregation of faith, giving not only financially but also of your time, talents, and prayers as we build together local families’ homes and lives.”

(Note: Habitat for Humanity’s new address is P. O. Box 68, Shannock, RI 02875.)

### South Providence Neighborhood Ministries:

“On behalf of South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, I would like to thank you and Kingston Congregational Church for your generous donation of food and \$2,000 to our agency. It is because of dedicated donors such as yourselves that we are able to continue to provide the necessary resources to the children and families of our community, and to enhance the quality of our programs. Our staff, families and clients appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of each donation.”

(Look for S. P. N. M.’s 2009 annual report in Fellowship Hall.)

Thanks for your support in our KCC mission outreach efforts.

Board of Missions

## Refugee and Immigration Information Opportunity

The International Institute Rhode Island (IIRI) has been working with immigrant and refugee populations since 1921! On Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup> William Shuey, Executive Director of IIRI, will meet with us for a “Second Hour” discussion.

IIRI takes a holistic view of the individual and family needs of refugee and immigrant newcomers. Their programs include: orientation meetings, ESL and GED classes, tutoring, job training, health care and legal service info, assistance with citizenship applications, interpreters and translators (available in 60 languages!) plus financial resources and more. On-site child care is provided during class hours if needed. In FY 2009 IIRI provided 13,000 direct services to over 5,400 clients plus 14,000 community members were assisted through indirect services.

A system of volunteers provides many of the services that assist in the supports needed by the refugee and immigrant population of RI.

Please bring your questions about refugee and immigration issues and learn from Bill Shuey’s presentation during the “Second Hour” on September 26<sup>th</sup> in the Fireplace Room.

Sponsored by the Board of Missions

# KCC Environmental Task Force

Submitted by and the opinions of Helen Rowe-Drake:

I believe God intended us to be stewards, and caregivers of this Earth and all its inhabitants and we aren't doing our job very well.

All of us know about and have seen horrific images and photos of the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf which is the largest environmental disaster in American history. Even though the flow is finally capped, it is not over and many people are still working on the clean up. There is more information coming in from the coastal gulf areas about affected fisheries, marine life, birds, sea turtles, dolphins and people who are suffering after this tragedy. Don't let it fade from your thoughts just because it isn't in our headlines.

There are also reports that BP owes big money to several companies who took manufacturing orders from BP to make the booms which help contain or soak up the oil. BP has not paid them nor did they take delivery on all that they ordered, so these companies are left with materials and unpaid labor in the hundred of thousands of dollars.

Despite so many pressing disaster issues, our Senate did not manage to pass an oil spill response bill! In addition, Congress still did not pass a clean energy climate bill.

Did you know that during this session of Congress alone, oil and coal companies have spent almost \$15,000,000 on direct political contributions to elected officials? The future of our climate, planet and way of life is being controlled, bought and paid for by these companies.

The coal industry has about 2000 sites around the country where piles of coal ash (the byproduct of burning coal for electricity) is allowed to sit. We saw the disaster in Tennessee and the coal industry has also "recycled" the coal ash by selling it to golf courses and even schools for playgrounds and sports fields!! The coal industry claims it is no more harmful than household garbage and doesn't need regulation BUT it is leeching carcinogenic heavy metals like lead, arsenic and mercury into our drinking water and streams! It should be labeled hazardous waste and be required to be processed or contained. Yes, we need energy, but we are doing it at the price of the environment, increased birth defects, and rising cancer rates.

I urge you to take action: write a letter, sign a petition, give money to environmental groups, educate yourself and talk with others, and with the upcoming fall elections please VOTE with the environment in mind.

Attention Women of KCC--- there is a small thing you can do: Bring your unwanted, new or used but cleaned panty hose, stockings or tights – kids and teens sizes too to a box in Fellowship Hall on the stage. There is an organization that is collecting them. Volunteers then stuff them with hair that is donated from beauty salons, pet groomers and sheep, llama and alpaca farms. These are then put into used shrimp bags, donated floats are added, it is tied together and donated where needed as booms to soak up the oil. Clean up volunteers are also using individual booms to rub over rocks as the oil sticks to the nylon and hair better than to rakes. It is nice to know that when the oil spill happened, the call for stockings and wool/hair went out and they were inundated with boxes that have filled their warehouses. They still need volunteers to stuff the booms and money for the warehouse rentals. These booms are not approved by BP or endorsed by the EPA (yet) but they are absorbent and organic and free. Lots of people have contributed to this effort and we can do our little bit, I know that it helps me to feel less helpless. When we have a full box of stockings, Helen will mail them. For more information and photos and videos about this project, go to [www.matteroftrust.org](http://www.matteroftrust.org).