

The Spire

From Your Pastor

September 2011

Discover Your Gifts

Friday, September 23, 2011

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Dinner Provided

Saturday, September 24, 2011

9:30-3:00

Lunch Provided

Our Leader Is
The Rev. Betsy Garland

Discover Your Gifts is a workshop to help YOU uncover the unique gifts God has given you.

Spiritual gifts include:

Encouragement, Faith

Creativity, Discernment

And more!

This is for ANYONE age 14 and older

\$20.00 per person

\$30.00 per family.

Sign up by calling the church office or visiting the Harvest Table

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!!!

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

September's Deacon of the Month is Kevin Pelton.

Baptism:

Stella Daryl Weber Parents: Ward and Amy Weber August 14, 2011
Grandparents: Wayne and JoAnn Svehlik

Planned Giving

Are you having a special celebration? Why not support Kingston Congregational Church's permanent endowment? Is your child having a birthday, a baptism or confirmation, or is someone in your family celebrating a wedding anniversary? If so, please consider making a donation in their honor to the Kingston Congregational Church to be added to our permanent endowment that benefits the life and mission of the church into the future.

Indicate "endowment" on the memo line of your check. Also please remember the endowment as you do your estate planning and as a possible opportunity for donations in lieu of flowers at the time of a relative's passing.

Thank you,
The KCC Planned Giving Committee

Memorial Bricks

Memorial bricks are a nice way to remember loved ones, to celebrate special dates (baptisms, anniversaries, graduations, etc.) and/or to add your own names to our brick walkway for the gardens. Your donation is a pleasant way to help KCC as a fund raiser too. If you would like to purchase a memorial brick or if you would like more information about the bricks, please see Audrey Hallberg or contact her at 364-0803; audreyhallberg@aol.com. Thank you.

Fall . . . For SCRIP

– Back To School –

**Why not send Prepaid Scrip Cards to your kids away at school?
CVS, Barnes and Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Staples**

*FALL CLEAN UP
Home Depot, Walmart, Lowes*

*And it's never too early to think about Christmas!
Come visit us in the Fellowship Hall – we'll help you get started
and support KCC MINISTRIES.*

The Two Near the Window

I walked into the Fellowship Hall on August 7, 2011 when I was struck by the two figures sitting over near the windows. There was Dick Shaw and Tom Butcher behind the SCRIP table. They have been sitting behind that table before and after church for at least a year and a half. They aren't, of course, the only ones devoted to the SCRIP program and "man" the table, but they were the two that struck me that day that I was visiting in Kingston. Now I am not well versed in the SCRIP program or exactly how it is being used in Kingston, but I do know two things that I would like to share with you.

First, the SCRIP program is a great fundraiser for the church and a great convenience for every member and friend of the church. Let me tell you that I had emailed Dick Shaw several weeks prior to Kileen coming to Maryland with an order for \$710 worth of cards. That may sound like a lot, but it only contained four \$100 grocery cards, one each of \$100 of Lowe's and HomeDepot's to continue repairs on our new home, \$40 of Babies "R" Us for a new baby gift, and \$70 of L.L.Bean, Dunkin' Donuts, and Olive Garden. You see how fast it goes ... just the same as cash. Every time I swipe one of these cards at the store or input the number on-line I feel like I have done something good. Some of you may want the airline or L.L.Bean credits so you feel you can't use the SCRIP cards. Use your credit cards to buy your SCRIP cards. For my \$710 order that was only a \$14.20 charge; for all of the miles or promotional gift cards it is worth the payback to
MISSIONS. Here is what I do: I go to:



Here are all of the categories with the businesses you can get cards for and the percentage that they will give back to the church. Just think of the power you have to help with MISSIONS and KCC. As an example, in September you might need grocery cards with a 4% return, Staples and JC Penney cards with a 5% return, a GAP card with a 9% return, and Starbucks and Sports Authority cards with 7 and 8% returns. It is fun to review the list and see all of the places you already spend money. So whoa, here is a way to put that money to work!

The second reason that I am sitting in Maryland writing this for the *Spire* is that over the year and a half, while we have lived in RI or just visited in RI, I have seen such dedication in the SCRIP committee. There they are every single Sunday. There was Dick and Tom on August 7th waiting for me to buy some more cards, and I did. You should be greeting them at the table every week ordering or picking up your cards for your weekly or monthly shopping. You will feel so much better having helped so many more people.

Blessings to all from Margaret Munroe and Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

Our Mysterious Huge Black Safe Is Finally Opened!

On July 28th, the Trustees hired "Joe the Safe Cracker" to open our safe in the back of the church office. After 2 hours and 10 minutes of drilling, the safe finally opened.....after almost 20 years of silence. The safe was built by McNeal & Urban Safe Co. over 100 years ago. The intricate lock mechanism was built by Sargent & McNeal of New Haven, CT. We had several combinations to try on the lock, but none worked. Joe said our lock was corroded and bent inside. Evidently, there must have been 4 numbers in the old combination because there were four 1 1/2" diameter steel bars running across the safe door.

Inside we found numerous silver communion cups engraved with "KCC" (which is the reason we opened the safe, hoping to find them), a silver tray to hold those cups, and a couple of creamers and sugar bowls. Impressively, the silver was not tarnished, so our safe must be air tight. At the bottom was a small locked safe, within our safe. We had that combination, and found it empty. We assume it was to hold offerings from Sunday services until banks were open.

Present for the opening were Pastor Pat, Pat Cox, Shirley Schock, Frank Osterman, Linda Mendillo, and me. It was exciting! The cost to open the safe was \$400. Joe set a new combination for the lock which he repaired, and the combination is in the hands of our church secretary, Pat Liberty, Dave Remington, Chair of Trustees and Treasurer Dick Geisler. (We can use the safe now, and that is a good thing, because our beautiful antique silver tray walked away from our church recently. Since we have good insurance, the tray was covered and we used \$400 from that check to pay for this opening.)

Submitted by Audrey Hallberg

Fair Trade Coffee Is Here

The Board of Missions is excited to announce that we are now using Fair Trade Coffee at Coffee Hour. KCC, at the request of the Board of Missions and Social Justice and with the approval of the Board of Deacons and the Church Council has decided to join with many other UCC congregations who purchase coffee from the UCC Coffee Project. Through the project we can purchase fairly traded coffee which gives small farmers a fair price for their crop.

Many small farmers, who depend on coffee for their livelihood, have little access to markets and are forced to sell their coffee to middlemen at very low prices. This cycle keeps them trapped in poverty. Equal Exchange is a worker owned fair trade company which provides an alternative to small farmers. Equal Exchange helps farmers in the following ways:

- * pays a guaranteed minimum price to small farmers
- * works directly with small farmers cooperatives
- * provides farmers with vital credit
- * encourages sustainable farming practices
- * develops trade relationships based on trust and respect
- * offers consumers high quality certified organic shade grown coffee

For more information go to the "UCC Coffee Project" web site.

Thanks for your support,
Your Board of Missions and Social Justice

11-11-11

**“That they may all be 1”
A Shopping List for Mission: 1**

This is the year 2011. We propose to collect food for 11 weeks, from August 28-November 6, as one way of participating in a national effort called “Mission: 1.” As part of this mission, United Church of Christ congregations, colleges, seminaries, and health and human service agencies will join together in a campaign to collect more than 1 million food items for local food banks by 11-11-11. **By KCC collecting food for 11 weeks, we should be able to add significantly to the Mission: 1 tally.** Using the list provided by the Jonnycake Center, we will collect food every week (instead of just on Communion Sundays). We will continue to alternate donations between the Jonnycake Center and South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, beginning with fresh produce for Jonnycake on August 28th. Please participate in what the Mission: 1 Campaign Manual calls an “opportunity to live out our faith – in unity – by offering the worship that God most desires from us: loosening the bonds of injustice and sharing our food with the hungry.” In the coming weeks and months you will hear more about this campaign. The weekly shopping list will be available on the Harvest Table or from any member of your Board of Mission and Social Justice.

4th Annual Chocoholic Frolic – S. P. N. M.

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries invites you to their annual Chocoholic Frolic, to be held on Saturday, October 8, 2011, 2:30-6:00 p.m., at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church in Cranston. This is an event in which many King Cong members have participated, and we hope the same will be the case this year. Spend the afternoon dipping fresh fruit bits into the chocolate fountain for yummy snacks, along with chocolate cookies and finger food of all kinds. Participate in the silent auction with many prizes – gift baskets, theatre tickets, restaurant gift certificates, a week in a ski condo in New Hampshire, etc., etc. Admission is \$15 per person. This is a fun event and, given the state of the economy, the money raised is even more needed than in the past. (For reminders and further information, see the flyers posted in the Fellowship Hall.) Hope to see you there!

Women’s Fellowship

Calling All Women Members and Friends to the KCC Women's Fellowship Pot Luck Supper, Monday, September 12th at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join in for excellent food, fun, sharing, and a look at the year's program. Please bring your favorite recipe for 6 to 8 folks: salad, main dish or dessert for sharing.

The Fellowship is open to all women and totally open for special events like Romanian Hospice news in October, a Mystery Evening in January and the March emphasis on Qatar and Bahrain. Our popular "all girl" Gingerbread House party will repeat in November. Do join us by attending any or all meetings or by contributing to our local, statewide, national and international mission projects culminating with the preparation of baby, health and school kits for Church World Service in April, our fund raising cookie sales in December and May ending with our Ice Cream Social in June. We hope to see you on September 12th. If you need a ride, call Gerri Davis at 783-1993 or Doris Findlay at 783-2254.

Church Picnic

The Family Life Committee invites you to the annual Church Picnic on Sunday, September 11, 2011 from 12:00 - 3:00 at West Kingston Park. Enjoy the last days of summer and delicious picnic fare with your church family members. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Jr. High Fellowship: Pizza with Pastor Pat September 18th from 5-7 PM for 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

Bring a picture and/or a story to share about a summer activity you enjoyed.

Also bring a parent so Safe Church papers can be filled out and the tentative schedule of activities planned can be reviewed.

Bring your ideas as to how we can learn, have fun, grow and share in Christian ministry together.

Christian Education

1. Sunday School will start September 11, 2011. The CE Board will kick off the school year with an open house that morning at 9:00 am where parents can register their children and meet the teachers. They will also be able to learn what activities we will be doing. Registration for Sunday School is also available online on the church's website.
2. The CE Board is seeking volunteers, teachers, substitute teachers, or roamers for our Sunday School year. The roamer is a person who walks around the Sunday School rooms to ensure everyone is in the right place and if there is a problem, can assist teachers. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the Harvest table for roamers each Sunday. If you are interested in helping with any of these jobs, please contact any member of the CE Board which includes, Michelle Davis, Freddie Bettinger, Barbara Hartman, Susan Gallagher, Lori Ann Heiner, Prentice Stout, and Michael Salvadore Jr.
3. A safe church training and curriculum meeting with teachers will be conducted on Wednesday, August 31st at 7pm in the Fireplace Room. All church members are invited and encouraged to attend the safe church training portion which will be at the beginning at 7pm. Safe church training is required for all volunteers, leaders, and teachers that work with the church children and youth.

Thank you.

Thank you to all for your prayers, kind words and cards following the death of my friend Lauren.

Molly Tortolani

The Environmental Task Force hopes that everyone had a happy and healthy and green summer. Here is an item that circulated on the internet--just a reminder of how things change....and some items we might need to go back to!

The Green Thing

In the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags were not good for the environment. The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day." The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment."

He was right – our generation didn't have the green thing in its day. Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day. We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day. Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that old lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day. Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?). Not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then. We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the green thing back then. Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?