The Spire

From Your Pastor

September 2007

The prophet Micah puts into words the sleepless-night question which haunts us every rare once in awhile: *What does the Lord require of you?* (Micah 6:8).

Perhaps our question is raised out of love. Or guilt. Or shame. Of all we have done well in life, pleasing God may not rank near the top, which may be why the question intrudes into our consciousness. We know we should love God. That is the first and greatest commandment. We know we should love our neighbor, and we know that Jesus redefined *neighbor* in his parable about the Good Samaritan. As we contemplate our success in fulfilling those commandments, we may wonder if God might not be so pleased with our success or even our attempts.

Micah provided an answer to the question he raised. Jesus provided his version, the apostle Paul provided another. I'd suspect every religion ponders the same question and makes an attempt to discover an answer.

Rainer Maria Rilke, in Letters To A Young Poet, wrote:

> *"…have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer."*

I didn't like Rilke's advice when I first encountered it. I want answers, reasons and explanations and I'd like them clear and simple so I can understand them. Living with ambiguity is not my strong suit.

Yet, I have come to appreciate Rilke's advice and perhaps God does too. When you and I wrestle with the unresolved and with trying to understand *"What does the Lord require of you?"* are we not actually practicing our love for God by loving the question, and then by living the question, and then, we hope, without even noticing it, we might live our way into the answer. May Micah's question haunt you too.

– 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)

Youth Council

To coordinate the outstanding resources we have with our youth programs and to collaborate where it makes sense, a YOUTH COUNCIL has been formed to meet on occasion so that all youth leaders may have a forum for keeping one another informed. For 2007-08, the following have volunteered to serve in leadership capacities. Please let them know of your appreciation, for we are grateful for the vibrant and active youth participation in our congregation.

Youth Council Conveners: Jill Dumican and Scott Alemany
Senior High Coordinators: Sharon Alemany and Gail Farrell
Junior High Coordinators: Susan Buntz and Elizabeth Larimer
Confirmation: Sandee Andrew and Jill Dumican
Representing the Church: Jack Beliveau and Marc Ferrelli
Representing the Staff: Kevin Munroe
Many, many others volunteering to assist, teach, chaperone, feed, and help

September Sundays

September 2 Message: *The Failed Samaritan*. Communion.
Sermon Talk-back following worship. Labor Day Weekend.

September 9 Message: *O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.*
Baptism: Jack Howard Gwaltney. Choir begins. Church School begins.
Church picnic noon to 3 p.m.

September 16 Message: *No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.*
Our Covenant with Our Educators. Baptism: Naomi Gertrude Nelson.
Second Hour Program: Daehler Hayes, for the Cornerstone Fund.

September 23 Kevin Munroe preaching. Message: *Leaving Eden*

September 30 Message: *Take hold of life that is really life.*

September's Deacon of the Month is Louise Pearson.

All Boards meet September 19

To kick off the year, All Boards and Standing Committees meet the same night in September, the 19th. This is the only time boards will meet in September. Meetings will begin in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. and then breaking out into individual Board and Committee meetings. Church Council will meet, as scheduled, September 26th.

www.kingcongchurch.org

If you haven't visited our website in a while, now is the time! Some new pages have been added:

Upcoming Events - Church-sponsored events are displayed here. If your committee would like to have an event listed on this page, email the information, plus any images, to Cathy White at csw@kingcongchurch.org.

News - Have you seen an article in the *Projo* or any of the local papers about any of our Church members? Do you have special news you would like to share with the Church community? If so, email csw@kingcongchurch.org with the information or website link, and it will be added to the News page.

Church School Registration - The Church School Registration forms can now be submitted through the website! Make it easy for yourself and the Church School staff, and complete the forms online before Church School starts in September.

If you need to contact any of the Church staff by email, you can do so by clicking on any of their names on the Contact Us page. Also, note that we no longer use the Yahoo email address. To contact Shirley or the office, please use either office@kingcongchurch.org.

Finally, don't forget that each week's service is recorded and is available for your listening pleasure on the Sermons' page!

KCC E-mail Address Change

KCC has a new e-mail address (just when we all got used to the old one!). For now, e-mail sent to the highstream address is being forwarded, but please send future correspondence to **office@kingcongchurch.org**. Thank you!

Also, if you have an e-mail change of your own, please notify the office.

Choir

The Adult Choir of KCC begins on September 6th. The first choir Sunday will be September 9th. Rehearsals are from 7 to 9 at the latest. All are welcome. Please come. Everyone is welcome!!! I know you will enjoy it. And we will enjoy your presence.

Planned Giving

The permanent endowment of Kingston Congregational Church helps support the maintenance of our buildings as well as programs through annual contributions of income to our budget. The larger the endowment, the more we can generate income to support our buildings and programs. Unfortunately, our endowment is relatively small compared to other churches of our age and size. We encourage you to add to the church's permanent endowment through your estate planning by including the following wording in your Will: "I give and bequeath to Kingston Congregational Church, a Rhode Island Non-Profit Corporation, $_____, to be added to the church's permanent endowment" or "I give and bequeath _____% of the residue of my estate to Kingston Congregational Church, a Rhode Island Non-Profit Corporation, to be added to the church's permanent endowment."

Thank you,
The Planned Giving Committee
James V. Aukerman, Chairman

Guest Speaker

Susan Orban from Washington County Coalition for Children will speak to us September 30th after church about the medical and social service needs of children in Washington County. Susan is a social worker with the Visiting Nurses. She and some colleagues saw children in the area falling through the cracks in the system and got together to do something about it. Susan will talk to us about the needs of children in Washington County and what the coalition is doing to help them. Although South County is an affluent area, there is poverty as well. In addition, children of all socioeconomic levels may get in trouble with drugs and alcohol and the law. It is also difficult to get mental health services for children. Please come to hear Susan tell us about what is happening in our community to help children and we can become involved.

Habitat for Humanity Update

Students, if you would like to earn community service hours for the upcoming school year, I would be glad to verify your hours for you. To qualify, you and your friends could make a dozen sandwiches or bake cookies for the Habitat workers. Please call me at 783-7754 if you would like to help.

During August, Haley Ladd of Curtis Corner Middle School and Chelsea Ladd, a senior at South Kingstown High School baked cookies and delivered them to me in Peace Dale. I thank them for their generosity and time.

Also to be recognized during August are:

Betty and Tony Faella Sue Koerner
Carolyn Henn Jessamyn LeClair
Fred Test who delivered all to Pierce Street, Westerly.

Thanks to all.
Carolyn Barwise

An Opportunity for Everyone to Buy $5 Blankets
Church World Sunday Blanket Sunday, October 14, 2007

How many blankets can you supply people in need? Well, we have the opportunity to donate money on BLANKET SUNDAY to buy functional blankets. For just five dollars ($5.00) you provide someone with a blanket they can use for warmth, shelter and a small bit of security in a crisis situation at home or abroad. Church World Service Blanket Sunday is October 14th, a very important day for so many people around the world. Your Board of Missions is eager to supply as many blankets as we can in this year of desperate need throughout the world. Remember, it is only $5 a blanket. Please help The Board of Missions make this a very successful drive.

Your Board of Missions: Carolyn Barwise, Clark Bridgman, Cindy Buxton, Tina Letcher, Jean Miller, Margaret Munroe, Clay Sink and Patty Stout

Casserole Bank!!

Hungry Freezer needs casseroles to eat!

The Casserole Crew has eased the stress of many getting home from surgery, recovering from a crisis, having a baby, or needing a friendly token of our concern. Many have volunteered to prepare and deliver these casseroles, but often the good-will chefs are not available when the casserole is needed. So the Casserole Crew acquired a freezer (thanks to the Women's Fellowship) to store gift meals for such occasions. Now we need to make some "deposits." Next time you make your favorite stew, soup, or one-dish meal, make a little extra, pack it for freezing, label it with your name, phone, list of ingredients, and directions for heating. Bring it to church on September 16th – **Casserole Bank Day**. We will be on hand to gratefully receive it and to make sure it gets to the right place just when it means the most. (See Kennie Geary or Lea Embree in the church kitchen just before or after church.)

SPNM Love Thy Neighbor Fall Fundraising "Non-Dinner"

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries welcomes you to participate this year from your own home in our non-dinner fall fundraiser. There will be no chicken to eat and no baskets to bid on. Won't you please have dinner at home and send us a contribution in the amount that you might have spent at our dinner event. Help us by celebrating and supporting the goal to "love thy neighbor."

Here are some of the expenses you might have incurred at an actual dinner. Your donation in these amounts is <u>totally tax-deductible</u>. Please make out your checks to SPNM.

Non-dinner tickets @ $45.00	_____
Cash bar @ $8.00	_____
Valet parking: $2.00	_____
Coat Room: $1.00	_____
Appetizers: $5.00	_____
Savings from gasoline at $3.00/gal.	_____
Bridge tokens (Islanders only) $2.00	_____
Savings from Child Care expenses @ $10.00/hour	_____
Total Donation:	_____

Please send your donation to SPNM, 747 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02907 before October 1, 2007.

Coming this Fall
Sunday
November 4, 2007
Silent Auction
Spectacular!

A Preview of the 2007-2008 KCC Concert Series

October 7, 2007, Sunday, at 3pm: Two Guitarists from the well-regarded New England Conservatory will artfully strum a collection of beautiful music. (See the flyer in this issue.)

February 3, 2008, Sunday, at 3pm: The celebrated Northeast Chamber Ensemble (with Flute, Bassoon, and Oboe) will wind gracefully into our hearts.

May 10, 2008, Saturday, at 7:30pm: Valerie Nicolosi, mezzo soprano, will enchant us with a melodic mix of classical, spiritual, and Broadway tunes about Mothers.

Sponsors are being sought for the KCC Concert Series with donations of $50, $75, and $100 most welcome.

A Note from Kansas

Dear Friends and Loved Ones!

Today is a little cooler, with real temperatures just a little over 100° and a heat index of 110°. It's been hotter…and I think with longing of cool ocean breezes and fruit trees ripening, and wonderful friends back home.

How much you did for us! I continue to wear the stole each Sunday and STILL am writing thank-you notes, for your generosity was boundless. Everywhere I look I have reminders of the wonderful years I spent with you. A part of me remains in Rhode Island, and I suspect, always will.

People here in Kansas seem to like me and appreciate having a permanent pastor. We are doing well. The Church has been full every Sunday even though it's summer. Everything is very positive, very up-beat, and I look forward to growing in the faith with them.

I also look forward to the time when Bob can finish up and join me! Thank you for taking such good care of him while circumstances have forced us to be apart. He has enjoyed your help, good meals, and the support of true friendship. It means so much to both of us.

With love, in Christ,

Judy

Is Bottled Water Better?

June 2007

Read this issue of Greentips online

Bottled water manufacturers' marketing campaigns capitalize on isolated instances of contaminated public drinking water supplies by encouraging the perception that their products are purer and safer than tap water. But the reality is that tap water is actually held to more stringent quality standards than bottled water, and some brands of bottled water are just tap water in disguise. What's more, our increasing consumption of bottled water – more than 22 gallons per U.S. citizen in 2004 according to the Earth Policy Institute—fuels an unsustainable industry that takes a heavy toll on the environment.

Environmental Impact

Fossil fuel consumption. Approximately 1.5 million gallons of oil – enough to run 100,000 cars for a whole year—are used to make plastic water bottles, while transporting these bottles burns thousands more gallons of oil. In addition, the burning of oil and other fossil fuels (which are also used to generate the energy that powers the manufacturing process) emits global warming pollution into the atmosphere.

Water consumption. The growth in bottled water production has increased water extraction in areas near bottling plants, leading to water shortages that affect nearby consumers and farmers. In addition to the millions of gallons of water used in the plastic-making process, two gallons of water are wasted in the purification process for every gallon that goes into the bottles.

Waste. Only about 10 percent of water bottles are recycled, leaving the rest in landfills where it takes thousands of years for the plastic to decompose.

The Simple (and Cheaper) Solution

The next time you feel thirsty, forgo the bottle and turn to the tap. You'll not only lower your environmental impact but also save money – bottled water can cost up to 10,000 times more per gallon than tap water. And because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's standards for tap water are more stringent than the Food and Drug Administration's standards for bottled water, you'll be drinking water that is just as safe as, or safer than, bottled.

If you received this message from a friend, you can sign up for the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Church School

Church School will start this year on September 9th for Nursery through grade 8. Classroom assignments will be posted on the Church School Bulletin Board September 2nd.

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 September 2nd, in the Fellowship Hall, and also in every classroom.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

From July 23 to the 27th, 12 children from our church attended "Son Force Kids" Vacation Bible School at Camp Canonicus in Exeter with approximately 100 children from other churches for a week of learning, singing, crafts, swimming, nature study and fun. Erin Trodson, Karen Elliot, Carolyn Barwise, and David Barwise all deserve a big round of applause for putting in long days in the rain and heat to help make the week a memorable one for all the children. Without volunteers we would not be able to participate in this wonderful camp – so my heartfelt thanks goes out to each one of them.

Janet Keegan Munroe

Janet is a native Rhode Islander. She is unsure whether she was born at home in Kingston or at the Cottage Hospital in Wakefield on Kenyon Avenue. Janet had an older sister, Phyllis. Their father was a Professor of Agronomy and Landscape Gardening at Rhode Island State College (later URI). Janet has wonderful memories of growing up in Kingston. There were band concerts at the library, Christmas time at the church, playing in Farmer Brown's cow pasture and at Potter Woods, roller skating on campus and attending popular basketball games under Coach Keaney. She should publish these childhood recollections before they are lost! She earned a BS degree in Home Economics majoring in Textiles and Clothing, not her first choice but it offered a lot of electives.

Her husband-to-be, Kenneth Munroe, also earned a BS, in Business Administration at Rhode State College. Ken served in World War II in the Coast Guard doing picket duty sighting for submarines and was a radio man during the early days of loran in the Philippines. After the war Janet and Ken were married in May 1946 at the Kingston Congregational Church and 50 years later had their 50th wedding anniversary there. Jan's wedding gown was recently on display at the South County Museum.

Ken's jobs as manager of Lehigh Gas Company and in banking and insurance took them to Iowa and Connecticut and finally back to Rhode Island where Ken went into real estate work. They had four children, Keith and Kevin and some years later, Corena (Cody) and Kenneth. At different times during the children's childhood Jan worked at a Nursery School held at the Kingston Congregational Church. She worked for Dean Weldin at registration time and both she and Pat Weeden worked on a questionnaire study run by the Extension Service. They summarized data using an early computer and suffered as they tried to learn how to wire the board. Jan also worked in a summer Recreation Program teaching swimming at 30 Acres, Larkin's Pond, and Old Mountain Field. Jan was active in Scouting serving for over five years as a den mother in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Iowa. She also was a Girl Scout Leader and Coordinator, served on their board and was a neighborhood chairman.

She and Ken deserted Rhode Island for the warmer winters of Naples, Florida where they bought property. Jan's hobbies include reading and knitting, and, of course, sailing and swimming. She and Ken have cruised from Maine to Key West. They also traveled to Germany to visit Keith when he was stationed there. Jan and Cody have taken the church cruise to Alaska and plan to go on the Baltic cruise.

Jan is blessed with a beautiful contralto voice she inherited from her Dad's family. She has been a member of our church and the choir since her teen years and is often our soloist. She has been the chairman of the Music Committee. For 16 – 18 years she and Marjorie Kaiser visited nursing homes where Jan and others sang and Marjorie played the violin.

Her sons, Keith and Kenneth, are in the family real estate business; daughter, Cody is busy with four children, and is taking courses in real estate, and Kevin is well known to us as the Assistant to the Pastor, John Zehring. Jan has ten grandchildren and three and a half great grandchildren.

Submitted by Pat Weeden