

# The Spire

**F**rom Your Pastor

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Summer 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

During these summer months I hope you will have some time to relax and enjoy our beautiful state. It seems that for most folks these days summer is just as busy as every other time of the year. And yet, we are in need of rest and re-creation, a time to step away and replenish our depleted selves. As you are drawn in many directions, I hope one of them will be for your own well being.

Though this is the only newsletter you will receive this summer, the weekly Weathervane will continue with the exception of the weeks I am on vacation. If you are not receiving the Weathervane please send an e-mail to Shirley and ask to be put on the list. It is an important source of information about what is happening at KCC. If you don't have Internet/e-mail access, there are copies on the Harvest table every Sunday. Be sure to pick one up.

My office hours will remain the same for the summer; Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00-12:00 with others by appointment. My days off are Tuesday and Saturday. The best way to reach me is by cell phone at 499-7752. My e-mail is [pliberty@kingconchurch.org](mailto:pliberty@kingconchurch.org)

On a completely different note, Habitat for Humanity is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in RI. There are many events planned throughout the year including a bike ride on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The ride will be in increments of 20 miles with a maximum of 60. My recovery goal is to ride at least 40 miles of the ride and I invite anyone who wants to be part of it to join me. It's not a race, it's a ride and the goal is simply to finish. If you have never done a long bike ride, it is a great feeling of accomplishment. We have many experienced cyclists in our congregation and we can coach you if you are a beginner. Training rides throughout the summer are necessary to prepare, and they are also a lot of fun. Let me know if you are interested and we'll get riding!

See you in church, on the bike and in other places.

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)

*June's Deacon of the Month is Louise Pearson.  
July's Deacon of the Month is Michael Wakefield.  
August's Deacon of the Month is Mark Tortolani.*

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### **We welcome new members who joined KCC on May 23rd:**

Amy Coleman

Christopher Cummiskey

Joan Wutzl

James Coleman

Kristen Cummiskey

Rodger Wutzl

Jennifer Murray

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### **A Note for Summer**

As summer approaches and many of us shift to an alternate schedule, I hope you continue to occupy a pew at KCC on Sunday mornings. The work of our church persists regardless of season and for selfish reasons I need you there.

Serving as your council president is a privilege. However, as you may expect, it is also a challenge. It can have that occasional sense of being the sole survivor on a low-lying desert island with the vision of a tsunami on the horizon. In part I think this is a result of my own behavior. You see, although I have spent more than 20 years in attendance at KCC, I have never taken the time to get to "know" most of you. Excuses no longer suffice. Without knowing you the challenge of managing the business of the church becomes that much greater.

To better serve you, the church and God, I need to talk with as many of you as I can, as often as I can. Having a successful future together requires that we share information in order to achieve understanding. Tell me what is on your mind and I will do the same. Please fill the pews during the summer and beyond and I'll do my best to be there too.

In particular your presence and participation is encouraged at the next congregational meeting scheduled for June 27. Prior to the meeting that Sunday I will once again have the pleasure to share some thoughts with you as I preach from the pulpit. It is my earnest desire and personal belief that by working in harmony we can ensure that Kingston Congregational Church, UCC can always be a place for peace, spiritual sustenance, worship and friendship.

Peace and love to you all,

Tom Brillat

**The Quarterly Meeting**  
**of**  
**The Kingston Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**

Will be Held in the Church Sanctuary  
Following the Worship Service  
*Child care will be available*

**Sunday, June 27, 2010**

10:45 a.m.

Church Sanctuary

Martha Hartman, Clerk

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Call to Order: Jim Aukerman (Moderator)
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the April 25, 2010 Quarterly Meeting
4. Approval of Minutes of the May 16, 2010 Special Meeting
5. Treasurer's Report: Richard Geisler
6. New Business  
Proposed new Welcome Statement:  
"Whoever You Are and Wherever You Are on Life's Journey,  
You Are Welcome Here."
8. President's Report: Tom Brillat
9. Interim pastor's report: Rev. Patricia Liberty
10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

**The Kingston Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, April 25, 2010**

**Handouts:**

*Agenda, Kingston Congregational Church Quarterly Meeting, 4/ 25/ 2010*

*Minutes, Kingston Congregational Church UCC, Annual Meeting, Sunday, 01/ 31/ 2010 Treasurer's Report, 12/31/2009 through 3/31/2010*

*KCC Proposed Pastoral Search Committee*

Moderator Jim Aukerman welcomed everyone, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

*Moved, Seconded and Passed, (M/S/P/) to adopt the agenda as presented with the addition of "SCRIP Report."*

**Treasurer's Report: Richard Geisler**

Pledges are under budget. Trustees are about \$2000 over budget, mostly in maintenance and utilities. Other Boards are under budget. Staff expenses are in line. We still have a possible \$14,000 deficit. Ten years ago we had an endowment of \$800,000. Since then we have transferred approximately \$50,000 yearly to our budget. As of 03-13-2010, the Endowment balance was \$974,384. Paul Jacobs reported for the Stewardship Committee that we have 173 pledge units and if each unit added \$1.60 per week we could eliminate the potential deficit. "Pledge Receipts" calculations do contain a shrinkage factor.

**New Business:**

**1. Nominating Committee Report on Pastoral Search Committee**

Sue Kermes reported in the absence of the chair, Brad Asher, that the Nominating Committee has completed its task and presented the names of the nominees as listed on the handout. She described the selection process which involved contacting all those who expressed interest in being on the committee and those recommended by others. 70 individuals were contacted personally to discuss their interest and time commitment. Twenty-four individuals proceeded to a more comprehensive interview and assessment by the Nominating Committee as a group. The eleven chosen were selected to represent a cross section of the church and diversity of talent and experience. Cindy Buxton has withdrawn her name.

*It was Moved and Seconded to appoint to the Search Committee the names proposed and read by Sue Kermes.*

Upon request, the nominees stood and introduced themselves. Margaret Munroe expressed disappointment that the slate had not been available to the Congregation before today's meeting for reflection and asked about opportunity to make nominations from the floor. Tom Brillat, President took responsibility for the process and agreed that having names and possibly a profile of each nominee would be helpful. Linda Mendillo thanked the committee for the fine work they did. Applause followed. A suggestion was made that we continue to consider ways of using the Internet to get information to members.

Deb Shaw noted that it would have been helpful to have brief biographies on the candidates. The question of replacing Cindy Buxton was raised. Pat Moore noted that since January the Nominating Committee has invited members of the Congregation to volunteer self or others. Doris Findlay called the question. The moderator asked her to please hold the request. Reverend Pat commented that while the Congregation has the power of the vote we entrust groups with responsibility on our behalf, we are asked to trust, we are independent and interdependent, the Search Committee will report to the Council and to the Congregation at Quarterly Meetings and there will be a survey of the Congregation to develop a church profile for applicants. Claudia Smith asked if biographies of the candidates would be available.

The moderator invited all candidates to come forward and give a one-minute profile of their experience at KCC and qualifications. The profiles were done with enthusiasm, and may be included in the *Spire*.

The Moderator commented on opening the floor for additional nominations. Doris Findlay asked that we vote on the slate as is and then ask for nominations for the opening.

**The moderator called for a vote on the motion on the floor “to appoint to the Search Committee the names proposed and read by Sue Kermes.” The motion passed.**

***It was M/S/P that we ask the Nominating Committee to go back to their list to replace Cindy Buxton.***

2. **SCRIP:** Tom Butcher reported that there have been \$75,000 worth of SCRIP cards purchased. \$3,300 of the profits will go to the Trustee designated project of storm windows. Credit cards can now be used to purchase SCRIP cards. Tom expressed appreciation for the work of the SCRIP committee.

3. **Trustees:** Doug Kraus, speaking for the Trustees, reported that they are planning a fund raising project in which individuals will be invited to “Pay a Bill” by choosing a bill e.g. one month’s bill for electricity, which they pay. More information will be in the *Spire*. The other Boards were asked to plan some fund raising project as well to balance the budget. The Trustees have created three internal committees: *Finance, Building and Grounds* and *Personnel*. They hope to install the hood for a new stove in the kitchen soon.

**Interim Pastor Report:** Pat cited work in progress: the reorganization of the Trustees into three subcommittees; the updating of job descriptions and employment agreements; and, ongoing development of staff evaluation and performance improvement measures. She noted her strong confidence that we can fund our budget and suggested consideration of a change in our budgeting process from a calendar year to a fiscal year giving an Easter emphasis to pledging. She thanked everyone for patience and understanding following her accident.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. with prayer offered by the Pastor.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Martha E. Hartman, Clerk***

**The Kingston Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**Special Meeting of the Congregation**  
**Sunday, May 16, 2010**

Jim Aukerman, Moderator, called the meeting to order in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

*Moved, Seconded and Passed to adopt the agenda as presented.*

Sue Kermes reported that the Nominating Committee presents to the Congregation the name of Sue Macy to fill the opening on the Search Committee.

*Moved, Seconded, and Passed that Sue Macy be appointed to the Pastoral Search Committee.* The moderator asked Sue Macy to stand and noted her past contributions to the Board of Mission, Board of Christian Education and the Investment Committee.

*Moved, Seconded and Passed to adjourn at 10:35 a.m.*

Respectfully Submitted, Martha E. Hartman, Clerk

## Church Keys

KCC's Board of Trustees will be keying the Church on July 30th. New keys will be ready for pickup on June 27<sup>th</sup> at coffee hour or in the church office. Please contact a member of the Board of Trustees if you have any questions regarding new keys.

## Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm from June 14th through September 6<sup>th</sup>. Regular office hours of Monday through Thursday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, will resume the day after Labor Day, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

## *Spire* Printing Schedule

Please note that printing of the *Spire* will be suspended for July and August. The *Spire* will resume printing for the September issue. The deadline for September *Spire* articles is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Choral Risers

The Church is in possession of portable choral risers. If anyone knows of a musical group that might be interested in purchasing them, please call the church office or see Dave or Pat Cox. If you would like to see the risers, there is one section set up on the stage in Fellowship Hall. There are seven 48 inch, 4 step risers in mint condition.

## Crutches and Wheelchair Available

The Church has crutches and a wheelchair available for loan. If you have a need, please contact the church office to make arrangements for their use.

## Women's Fellowship Ice Cream Social Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM In the Fireplace Room Followed by Annual Meeting

## Scrip Program Update

In mid-May we passed the 6 months point with the SCRIP PROGRAM. **To date we've realized \$86,000 in Card Sales volume and have raised \$3500 for KCC ministries.** Your participation and support has been great. Our goal for 2010 is to raise \$7500; we're on track at this point. We know we have the potential to attain \$10,000 if we all get involved. Here's a couple of SCRIP POINTS to ponder:

1. We are **now accepting your Credit Cards** to purchase Scrip cards. So if you want to "capture" those Reward Points/Miles for your purchases, step right up and we can easily process your payment.
2. We just started using **Dave's Market** as a vendor. We'll be coordinating an order every 4-6 weeks. Let us know if you want to participate in the next order.
3. We **just added Marshalls/TJMaxx to our Same Day Sales inventory**. They offer a 7% rebate. This is very good as we average about 4.5% on our grocery purchases at Belmont's, Stop & Shop, and Shaws. You'd be surprised at how large some of the rebates are; there are about 25 Retailers whose rebates are 10%. Stop by the Scrip Table and get a copy of the list. You can order these Retailers cards on a given Sunday and pick them up the following Sunday. It's easy. So plan ahead for your "gifting" and order some of these "high rebate" cards.

We thank you all for your support of the SCRIP Program and KCC's ministries.

## **S. P. N. M.**

Thanks so much to each of you KingCong members and friends who have assisted South Providence Neighborhood Ministries with food for our pantry, clothes or household items. Soon we will receive the 10% from your Gregg's Restaurant receipts for Wednesdays in May. After school closes in Providence, our Louie's Place Camp will begin its 10 week session for 80 children weekdays, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. If you would like to accompany the group to a Pawtucket Red Sox game or any field trip or just visit, please call Amy Thomas at 461-7509 or write to [amy@spnm.org](mailto:amy@spnm.org).

Thanks again,  
SPNM Board and Staff.

## **Church School**

### **NEW CURRICULUM MEETING**

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm the Christian Education Committee will meet in the Fireplace Room to view and discuss curriculum choices for our Church School classes. All current church school teachers should attend this very important meeting. The meeting is also open to anyone who would like to have input or just see what curriculum is available.

### **TEACHER APPRECIATION BRUNCH**

In appreciation of the dedication of those who minister to our children, there will be a catered Brunch for church school teachers and their families in the Fireplace Room on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:45.

## **Senior High Sunday**

Senior High Sunday will be held June 6th. Please join us in celebrating our Senior High members.

## **Thank you.**

Dear KCC Family,

I have been overwhelmed by the sympathy and support I have received from all of you in my church family at the time of my father's death. There have been flowers and the offer of a meal from the casserole crew. So many of you have sent wonderful cards and greeted me with kind words when I needed them. As we went through the process of planning a service at the church my parents went to all of their lives, I realized once again how important it is to have a church family. As helpful as their church family was, it was wonderful to have all of you when I returned to Rhode Island. Thank you.

Love,  
Cindy Buxton and family