

# Annual Report from the Senior Pastor

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January 2007

Half a decade ago when I came to the Kingston Congregational Church, I resolved to help the church become the most a church can be. That's not quite the same thing as doing all the things we can think up to do, which would result in nothing more than spreading ourselves too thin and favoring activity over substance. Rather, it made more sense for us to choose to do a few things well as we sought to grow in faithfulness to God and in service to God's children.

I believe the Kingston Congregational Church is well on the way to reaching its full potential and becoming the most a church can be, primarily because of the superlative leadership of our people. Of all the treasures and assets an organization might possess, how fortunate we are to be rich in wise and skilled leaders.

**Paul Schubert**, President of Church Council, has held his seasoned and trusted hand on the tiller for the past two years, guiding and affirming other Church leaders to thrive in a collaborative and creative atmosphere. Best Shubert saying: *"That's do-able."* And Paul is never without a compliment or a *"thank you"* for church volunteers. After Paul concludes his presidency, he will provide leadership as the leader of our Strategic Planning effort.

**Tom Brillat**, Chair of the Deacons, is not only KCC's Storyteller Laureate, but has shepherded the Deacons to be partners with me in meeting the spiritual needs of our flock while growing and nurturing our "caring" services such as home communion, casserole crew, prayer chain, visiting shut-ins, and now a new venture to explore how we might consider a Parish Health ministry.

**Dick Shaw**, Chair of the Trustees, exudes an optimistic, positive, *"can do"* attitude as he energizes the Trustees to care for our historic and precious facilities, mobilizing dozens for Blue Jean Sundays, work projects, and crafting a budget that is responsive to the mission and ministry of our congregation – all while raking leaves with his grandsons, personally overseeing installation of new doors, and inviting the Congregation to his annual open house and Creche collection viewing.

**Jack Beliveau**, Chair of Christian Education, is the kind of leader who brings out the best in others and motivates them to want to contribute. His love for children and his interest in education have strengthened the comprehensive educational program from Nursery to Adult Education, while also bringing to fruition a "Safe Church Policy" for the heightened protection of all.

**Tina Letcher** and **Cindy Buxton**, Co-Chairs of Mission and Social Justice, bring a passion and compassion for the care of the least fortunate of God's children, encouraging our giving to aid those in need near and far while also educating the congregation about Peace and Social Justice issues that arise out of our Christian faith. This church is known around the region and through the state for its leadership in Peace and Justice initiatives.

**Ben Smith**, Treasurer, keeps leaders and congregation informed about the financial state of the church as he invests hours each week managing our resources. Ben has earned confidence and trust to the point that his smile, good humor, and his *"I think we're on track"* reassure that all is well. Each of the past five years has concluded with a surplus.

**Angelo Mendillo**, Moderator, has convened our Quarterly Meetings with dignity, respect, and brevity, preparing well in advance so that members will be adequately informed about matters that require their attention and running the meetings so that fairness rules, everyone has a chance to speak, and that differences of opinions are not taken personally.

**Martha Hartman**, Clerk, has faithfully blended the skills of a journalist, court reporter, and graphic designer as she recorded minutes of Church Council and Quarterly Meetings, with a style and organization that makes them attractive and easy to read yet capturing both the letter and spirit of the meetings.

**Sue Kermes**, chair of the Nominating Committee. A tireless “tapper on the shoulder” in service to God, Sue and her committee keep some sixty-plus positions filled. She knows them all, having served as President of Church Council, and portrays every job as crucial and important to the operation of the church.

**Canna Falby** and **Karen Tucker**, co-Presidents of the Women’s Fellowship, provide experienced leadership to one of the Congregation’s most active groups in an era when many Women’s Fellowships are faltering, and they do so with faithfulness, spirit, enthusiasm, and joy. They raise money and craft care packages for those in need around the world, offer programs of entertainment and education for our members, and bring the Congregation together for their annual Christmas dinner and carol sing.

And then... there are  
    committees,  
        task forces,  
            teachers, youth advisors, Confirmation coordinators  
                choir members,  
                    ushers,  
                        greeters,  
                            lay readers  
                                coffee hour hosts –  
each one an important service to God’s church.

I attend every Board meeting and have come to witness how the business of the church is the infrastructure that under-girds the entire mission and ministry of our work, our service, and our worship. I think about our board and committee members all the time, pray for them, and value their gift of service. I know they don’t do it for recognition. It’s their “giving back” and making a contribution to something greater than themselves. They too have a dream that the Kingston Congregational Church can become the most a church can be.

And then, one of my great joys in serving as Pastor here, is the wonderful opportunity to work with my partners in ministry, our staff. Each one is gifted, highly skilled, a professional at the top of his or her game. All together, they play as a team, creating a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. We meet every week and over the years have found that we really like one another and possess an admiration for each one’s talents.

**Enrico Garzilli**, truly the dean of Church Musicians, a superstar in music, and a beloved friend to all, sings and plays his faith which inspires us in our own worship of God. He can take the simplest tune and work it into a unique masterpiece. His work with choir members is legendary, bringing out the best in each. And his voice is the best instrument in the house.

**Joanne Gyorgy**, educator par excellence, recruits, trains, and supervises teachers to help them model their faith to children. Joanne's skills are recognized outside of the church, as she serves as the head of the Christian Education Division of our Conference and helps coordinate the annual event for all UCC educators from New England.

**Kevin Munroe**, our bright Assistant to the Pastor, preaches uplifting sermons that help relate the Bible to our everyday lives and helps me with visits, Confirmation, and pastoral responsibilities. When Kevin started, I was glad to have him free me up to do some other things with our Congregation. Now, when he preaches, I can't wait because he is always so good and creative.

**Shirley Schock**, church secretary, serves with the heart of a concierge. Her door is open, her welcome is warm, and her hands reach out in helpfulness and service to all. And wow, is she proactive! She produces the weekly bulletin, edits our attractive *Spire* newsletter, answers dozens of calls and emails a day, manages the church calendar, and provides assistance to staff and church leaders – all in a half-time position.

**Andy Courmoyer**, sexton, has won the heart and respect of Trustees and members alike for his helpfulness, eagerness, initiative, capability, and warm friendliness. Our church home looks nice, is well kept, and stays well cleaned, dusted, painted, and repaired. Andy always has an encouraging word and a helping hand to all with whom he comes in contact.

**Cathy White**, financial secretary, tends to the receipt of gifts and the payment of bills and checks. Cathy knows more about computers than the rest of us combined and is the keeper of KCC's excellent website. She is long on skills and energy, short on words (favorite phrase: "*can do*"), radiant in smile, and quick in helpfulness to others.

And to every member I am grateful – for your participation, attendance, and sharing. Unlike other kinds of membership organizations, a church is like a family, united by that tie that binds us together in Christian love. Each one is cherished, honored, and precious.

*Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.*

*We share each other's woes, Each other's burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.*

– John Zehring

## President's Annual Message 2006

At our Leaders Retreat this past September the theme was Strategic Planning with an emphasis on "Being Proactive." We talked about how we as an organization do not have to be passively at the mercy of the larger environment but, rather, how we can take the initiative to accomplish the shared values and purposes of all the individuals involved here at Kingston Congregational Church. It has been an honor and privilege to work toward those ends with such a talented and committed group of Church Leaders and Staff: the combination of creativity and resourcefulness you exhibit never ceases to amaze me. I am struck by the fact that, by our very nature, we Congregationalists are a vigorous, upbeat, "can do" people where bringing out the best in each other is contagious, even in normal, non-crisis times.

Such times are the perfect opportunity to initiate long-range planning as we as a congregation discuss our future. Areas of consideration include but are not limited to Church growth, our physical plant, Christian Education, Missions and growing the endowment. As I thank the outgoing volunteers for their service to the Church and a job "well done" I welcome the members both new and old who are coming on to Boards and Committees. I look forward to being involved in areas of strategic planning as we answer the question: What is God calling on us to be?

God Bless this Church Family in 2007!

Paul Schubert

## **Board of Deacons' Annual Report – 2006**

The Board of Deacons pursued two major initiatives during 2006. First was the development of a Welcome Statement for the church. During a series of meetings the board reviewed and discussed a number of such statements used by a variety of churches around the country. Based on those ideas and input from our own congregation the board drafted a proposed statement. After review and suggested changes by the Council the Board approved the statement and brought it to Council for adoption.

The second activity was to begin the development of a Health Ministry for the church. The board organized a committee of board members and other church members to learn more about what a Health Ministry might entail. The Board received input and guidance from Peggy Matteson and the Reverend Joseph Tripp of the United Congregational Church in Middletown and from materials provided by the UCC. Peggy visited with the Board and the committee visited the Middletown church. At those meetings numerous questions were asked concerning the make-up, funding, procedures, purposes, etc. of a Health Ministry.

Subsequently, the committee conducted an initial informational meeting with members of the congregation. The meeting had two purposes: to explain what the committee had learned about health ministries, and to solicit information and suggestions from the attendees about how to proceed. Notes of that meeting have been distributed to attendees and the next steps have been outlined.

In addition to the major initiatives the Board continued its service to the church and congregation by attending to funerals and weddings; by making home communion available; recruiting and guiding ushers, greeters and lay readers; providing substitute preachers as necessary; conducting home visits; interacting with the several committees of the Board; and responding as best as possible to the spiritual and worship needs of the congregation.

Finally, the Board made arrangements with the Pastor for his sabbatical. In that regard the Board is working with the Council, the Assistant to the Pastor and others to implement a plan to ensure full pastoral and Sunday service coverage during the Pastor's absence.

### **Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee**

"The Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee holds in trust the relationship between the congregation and the pastor, pursuing the best interest of both equally. It supports and maintains this relationship, and helps the pastor and members of the church share ideas, hopes, dreams, and interpretations of mission. It lets the pastor know what people in the church are thinking. It provides a framework in which conflict can be dealt with creatively."

This past year, the committee met three times with Rev. Zehring. Two of the committee members are completing terms this year- Steve Washburn and myself. The two new members coming on as replacements are Sharon Alemany and George Fitzelle. At the next scheduled meeting, a new Chairperson will be chosen.

If members of the congregation ever have issues they would like the Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee to discuss, they can contact a committee member at any time.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair this past year.

Sue Davis

Committee Members for 2007: Ernest Torres, Amy Hubertus, Jan Blackwell, Frank Lenox, Sharon Alemany, George Fitzelle

## Annual Report 2006 Music Director

I have continued to enjoy being organist and music director here at Kingston Congregational Church. I believe the past year has truly been a great musical and worshipful experience.

The Senior, Junior and Youth Choirs have been excellent in their dedicated contribution to Worship. The repertoire of anthems for the three choirs consists of the best available music, from the past as well as contemporary settings of musical texts. While the Senior Choir sings every Sunday, the Junior and Youth Choir sing on the fourth Sunday of the month and on special occasions such as Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and Easter. Kristen Couturier and Andrea Richardson along with other parents have been generous and faithful in their superb work with the children.

This past Christmas the Senior Choir gave their traditional Concert of Christmas Music before the Midnight Service. I am very proud, indeed, of their fantastic work.. The Choir continues to meet every Thursday evening to prepare for Sunday Worship. I deeply appreciate their great contribution to the worship service. Our two Easter Services included an original piece by your musical director along with the Alleluia Chorus of Handel. We were fortunate to have Brass, Percussion and Strings from the URI Orchestra perform with us. For Pentecost, the choir performed with a jazz orchestra. One of the pieces performed was written by Pelouquin, a student of Leonard Bernstein, who was my organ teacher. I was very pleased to have that piece performed since I also was his assistant at the Cathedral in Providence when I was a teenager.

The Concerts at the Church this year were truly enjoyable, inspired and varied. The Concert Committee under the leadership of Delight Carpenter has done a great job in the planning and promotion of the concerts. I look forward to the beautiful concerts that are being planned for this year. And I know that many of you are as well. (See the Music Committee Report.)

On a personal note, I have continued to compose music for both Concerts and Services. In closing, I would like to thank Elizabeth McNab and the Music Committee for their great help and guidance during the year, along with Diana Geisler, and Dianne Kinsey who have provided very much appreciated service as choir librarians. And finally to all of you, I express my gratitude once again for your support, encouragement, and inspiration.

Respectfully submitted,

Enrico Garzilli

Thanks to our terrific 2006 KCC Choir.

Helen Behrens	Canna Falby	Lisa Harlow	Jim Ross
Britt Bell	Cliff Falby	Dianne Kinsey	Paul Schubert
Marian Bowers	Jim Findlay	Chrissy Lockwood	Bob Scott
Margaret Bradley	Mary Beth Gale	Mark Mersereau	Judy Scott
Cheslie Carpenter	Ted Gale	Carrie Nally	Loretta Shaw
Delight Carpenter	Diana Geisler	Bill Nelson	Meredith Weiderman
Alex Couturier	Norma Hagist	Andrea Richardson	Nelson Weiderman
Sharon Davis	Susan Hammen-Winn	Ann Ross	Grace Woodward

## **Kingston Congregational Church Music Committee Annual Report for 2006**

As I sit in the congregation each Sunday and watch and listen to our choir (25+ vocalists) and organist/pianist/vocalist/conductor and music director Enrico Garzilli, I can't help but think how blessed this church is to have such wonderful music weekly and to have such a music supportive membership.

2006 was the first full year for our new green robes with the gold stoles which were introduced on Christmas Eve 2005. (See 2005 report for a few of the contributors) This year we added black music folders and black music stands to complete the replacement process. Our five pianos and organ have been regularly tuned and preventive maintenance continues to be a priority for the committee.

The KCC Concert Committee (see their report) has provided varied, interesting programs with excellent musicians. Thank you to this committee and to all the many talented musicians at KCC who have donated time and talents to make music a priority.

Thank you also to Vern Bradley for his service on the Music Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth McNab, Chair

Committee members: Vernon Bradley, Margaret Bradley, James Nelson, Claudia Smith,  
Beverly Stringer (Secretary)

## **Kingston Congregational Church Music Series Committee Report 2006**

The KCC Music Series Committee, an ad hoc committee under the Music Committee, meets regularly to plan and present music performances for the church and the community. The Committee attempts to balance its offerings in order to respond to a variety of musical tastes. Concert expenses are met through ticket sales and donations. This year, for the first time, a subscription for three concerts was made available at a discount, and tax-deductible contributions to the Music Series were requested and received.

The first concert of the 2006-2007 season was "A Trip Through Tin Pan Alley's Golden Age", featuring Tex Wyndham, vocalist and pianist. Mr. Wyndham gave a delightful performance to a capacity audience on Friday, November 3, 2006.

Continuing its current season, the Music Series will present *Duette Elysienne*: Hyunjung Choi, harp, and Susan Thomas, flute, in a program of classical and modern selections on Sunday, February 18, 2007, at 3 PM. The 2006-2007 season concludes on Saturday March 17, 2007, at 8 PM with *The Three Tenors of Rhode Island*, a program of popular opera classics and show tunes featuring tenors Bradford Logan, Ronald Rathier and Noel Espiritu Velasco, with Gigi Mitchell-Velasco accompanying.

For the 2007-2008 season, the Music Series Committee is considering several interesting possibilities including a major organ recital.

The Music Series Committee: Delight Carpenter, chairperson, Helen Behrens, Lisa Harlow, Dianne Kinsey, Edgar Leduc, Angelo Mendillo, and Patty Stout.

## **Assistant to the Pastor's Annual Report 2006**

I started my first full year as Assistant to the Pastor by conducting the New Year's Day service and ended it conducting the New Year's Eve service. In between, I conducted 5 additional services and had the opportunity to participate fully in the life of the Church. I have attended meetings of all of the Boards on a rotating basis and participated in the Leadership Retreat and All Boards Meeting. I met with the confirmation class and the Junior High group. I helped to conduct an evening film and discussion on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. While covering when John was on vacation this summer, I was honored to perform the internment and funeral service for Louise Aukerman. I also performed a baptism.

My role is to give support to the pastor and to free him up to use his time to the best possible effect. At the same time, it has given me the opportunity to grow in service and in faith. For this I am thankful to the congregation for their care and support.

Kevin Munroe

## **Annual Report 2006 Kingston Congregational Church Church School**

Our church school at KCC is currently comprised of six classes that accommodate children from infants through eighth grade. Attendance averages about 45-50 students per week.

There are 14 volunteer teachers, as well as several assistants from the Jr. High and High School classes. The Nursery School is staffed by a paid teacher, Nancy Oksman and a volunteer teacher, Tom Holland, with assistance from the Junior and Senior High students. We are still using a "Team Teaching" system, which allows the teachers flexibility in scheduling. It is always a challenge to recruit new teachers, and we never seem to have the full compliment of teachers for each class. We do however have at least two teachers for each class, and this allows the teachers to attend worship at least some of the time. We are truly blessed to have a committed, caring group of teachers, who give their time and talent, and do such a great job with the kids. This year's teachers are:

Pre-school/Kindergarten - Lori Ann Hiener and Rachel Marino

Grades One and Two - Ann Lenox, Sue Tierney, and Carol MacKenzie

Grades Three and Four - Steve Clegg and Rebecca Harlow

Grades Five and Six - Amy Hubertus and Karen Elliot

Grades Seven and Eight - Mary Daly, Mike McMahon, Mike Coffey and Carol Shilling

We continue to use a curriculum called "Hands- On- Bible", published by Group Publishing. This curriculum is used in Kindergarten through Grade Six. Feedback from the teachers has been quite positive for this curriculum, and the students seem to be happy with it as well.

The Church School Children again raised over \$700.00 for Heifer Project International during February and March, and collected hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and toys with a "Mitten Tree" in November and December.

For the second year, a collaborative Vacation Bible School was held at Canonicus Conference Center in Exeter. Although fewer children participated this year, those that did enjoyed meeting children from other area churches as they learned about God's promises through lessons, crafts, nature study, and song (and they got to swim every day during one of the hottest weeks of the year! 12 children attended, and 6 adults volunteered at VBS this year.

Thanks to the support of a strong Board of Christian Education, the Reverend John Zehring, a wonderful group of teachers, and a great bunch of kids, Church School at KCC continues to thrive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Gyorgy

## 2006 Annual Report Christian Family Life Committee

Our first event of the year, the Mardi Gras Pancake Supper in February, was well attended by about 110 hungry members. They enjoyed hot pancakes and sausages, with fruit and whipped cream while listening to lively Cajun music. The King Cakes, provided by Bev Stringer, were delicious. The children had fun creating elaborate Mardi Gras masks. Kristin McGrath did a great job planning the event.

108 participants enjoyed the Progressive Dinner in late April. A wonderful evening of fellowship was shared by all. Thank you to Cindy Shaw and Faye Bartels for all their hard work in planning this event.

About 45 people attended the KCC Annual Church Picnic at the South Kingstown Town Beach on a sunny September afternoon. They enjoyed grilled burgers and picnic fare, and the children created unique masterpieces in a sand castle building contest. Thanks go to Cindy Shaw for the organizing this event.

In October we again hosted the Fall Festival at the church. We had a lower than usual turnout of about 40 attendees. There were plenty of delicious meatball sandwiches and apple crisp, and fun activities for the kids, which included pumpkin decorating, scarecrow making, apple pie making, leaf rubbing, and foam crafts. Lori Ann Heiner and Chrissy Lockwood planned a great event.

The Advent Workshop on the first weekend of December was also not as well attended as in the past. About 45 people took part. The children enjoyed making beaded ornaments, stamped metal ornaments, reindeer food, pine cone bird feeders, and decorating cookies. We thank the Senior High Youth Group Kids who helped oversee the various activities. The Advent wreaths and crèche figures created were all lovely. Special thanks to Debi Jennings and family for again coordinating the crèche painting and for molding plaster figurines. Karen Elliot did a great job planning this fun event.

The Christmas tree was set up in time for the Advent Festival. It was decorated with beautiful ornaments created by the Church School children.

We welcomed new member Christine Lockwood to our committee this year as Cathy White finished out her membership and Chairmanship of the Committee. Christi Saurette and Amy Hubertus began their terms early, while we regretfully said good-bye to Beverly Stringer and Faye Boudreaux-Bartels.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lenox, Chair

Cindy Dowgiallo, Karen Elliott, Lori Ann Hiener, Amy Hubertus, Christine Lockwood, Kristin McGrath, and Christi Saurette.

## **Board of Trustees' Annual Report for 2006**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for care and custody of the property of the Church and has charge of its financial and investment affairs. Members of the Board of Trustees during 2006 were: Carol Blanpied, David Cox, Sharon Davis (secretary), Marc Ferrelli, Wayne Lee, Jeff Richardson (Vice Chair), Jim Ross, Bob Saurette, Bob Scott, Dick Shaw (Chair), Ben Smith (Treasurer), and Craig Thompson. Thanks to all of them for their service.

Numerous projects, both large and small, were conducted during the year. The solenoids for the Church bell were repaired, the parking lot was sealed and striped, Plexiglas storm windows were installed on the large front window of Fellowship Hall and the windows in the hallways on either side (thanks to the efforts of Herb Behrens in securing funding), routine cleaning of the gutters and downspouts, regular weeding and care of the outside plantings (special thanks to Pat Cox, Audrey Hallberg, and Ann Ross), and water leaks have been identified and some repaired, such as the leak in the sanctuary. The leaning steeple is being studied by a group of URI engineering students and may result in more extensive examination and future repair. Numerous repair and refinishing projects were done by Alan Embree, to whom the Trustees are very grateful. The Trustees conducted two Blue Jean Sundays with between 40 and 60 people participating to help clean the inside and outside of our buildings. We are appreciative of the many other people of our congregation who have done numerous tasks throughout the year.

Two large projects were completed. A new roof was installed over the kitchen and bathrooms where there had been major roof leaks. This was an extensive project involving replacing much of the roof before installing the insulation and membrane roofing. The cost for this was \$19,400 of which over \$13,000 was raised by special appeal to the congregation and the remainder approved to be taken from the Church's endowment. The other project was the installation of two new sets of doors leading to the front and back gardens funded through the 2005 and 2006 Potter Fund grant.

A special thanks to Andy Cournoyer, our sexton, for his untiring work of keeping our buildings clean.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Shaw, Chair

## **Nominating Committee Annual Report 2006**

Nominees on the 2006 ballot were presented to the Congregation at the January, 2006 Annual Meeting by Sue Kermes. The ballot was accepted as presented. Between January and June, a position on the Music Committee and Trustees became open. The Music Committee position was filled by Claudia Smith and the Trustee position, by Carol Blanpied. Both were approved at Quarterly meetings.

During the Fall of 2006, the Nominating Committee met regularly to prepare the 2007 ballot. At the request of the Investment Committee, the number of members on the Committee was reduced from eight to seven members. Time was spent reviewing the membership list, updating board and committee job descriptions and prayerfully preparing a list of possible candidates. One of the Committee's goals was to target new and enthusiastic persons who are willing to lead our church during the coming year. As of January 11, 2007, the ballot is complete except for one member of the Nominating Committee. This position will be filled by the Council.

We have worked hard this year and I thank the Committee for its dedication. Special thanks goes to George Fitzelle who will step down at the Annual Meeting. The committee gives special thanks to all whose terms are ending and welcome all who have agreed to serve on Boards and Committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Kermes, chair person

Committee: Sue Kermes, Susan Perkins Brillat, Holly Washburn, Connie Fitzelle, George Fitzelle, and Bob Schneck

## **Investment Committee 2006 Annual Report**

In 2006 the Investment Committee met five times, 1/8, 6/11, 9/17, 10/1 and 11/5.

On January 1, 2006 the endowment portfolio had a market value of \$1,165,663 and ended the year, December 31, 2006 with a value of \$1,251,880. There were no new contributions or gifts to the Endowment during 2006 and during the year \$54,000 of the Endowment's mutual funds were redeemed with the proceeds distributed to support the 2006 annual budget. Taking into account the \$54,000 disbursement the total return was 12.3%. This compares favorably to returns of the average S&P 500 mutual fund and balanced mutual fund of 15.2% and 10.7% respectively.

In accordance with the Investment Policy Statement, using 5% of a 3 year rolling average, it was determined that \$57,000 from the endowment fund be considered to support the 2007 Church budget.

The Committee realizes that an equity tilted, diversified, low cost portfolio while maintaining a prudent withdrawal rate should, on average, provide increasing cash flows to support the Church budget. To that end, during the year an account was opened with the Vanguard Group, our funds were then transferred to the Vanguard account, and sold. With the proceeds, low cost Vanguard index mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) were purchased resulting in a diversified portfolio with 80% equity and 20% fixed income weighting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Geisler, Chairman

Members: Jim Aukerman, David Deuel, John Ferry, Richard Geisler, John Hatch, Harold Henn, Ken Kermes, and Nelson Weideman.

## Membership Report

**Members as of January 1, 2006** **550**

**Additions**

Confirmations	9
Other	9

**Total Additions** **18**

**Losses**

Death	11
Other removals	1

**Total Losses** **12**

**Members as of December 31, 2006** **556**

Baptisms 9

Marriages 1

**Baptisms**

Date of Baptism

Cein Wren Maguire	February 26, 2006
Ryan Charles Fuscaldo	March 2, 2006
Jaiden Marie Fenner	June 20, 2006
Nancy Daugherty	July 1, 2006
Alexander Charles Luzzi	July 9, 2006
William Henry Tucker Shea	August 6, 2006
Aidan James Tucker Shea	August 8, 2006
Grace McKenzie Holt	October 22, 2006
Nora Mae Fitzgerald	November 26, 2006

**Marriages**

Michael Chappel and Krista Mccall May 6, 2006

**Deaths**

Richard Barber	March 25, 2006
Jackson Swann	January 5, 2006
Rachel Higgins	January 13, 2006
Virginia Mulholland	February 12, 2006
Barbara Kearns	March 22, 2006
Norris Wood	May 19, 2006
Frederick Jackson	May 27, 2006
Louise Aukerman	July 18, 2006
Jane Clayton	August 2, 2006
Beverly O'Neil	September 30, 2006
Lucile Votta	December 20, 2006

**Other Removals**

Guy Cassidy February 27, 2006

**New Members**

Holly Fuscaldo	January 29, 2006
Joy Wallis	January 29, 2006
Robert Scott	January 29, 2006

Confirmands:	March 12, 2006
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Tyler David Blanpied  
Mackenzie Corliss  
Chelsea Lynn Dentler  
Alexandria Elizabeth Deul  
Emily Elizabeth Johnson  
Graham Gerhardt Maione  
Anne Robin Mello  
Lauren Helen Mello  
Tmothy Edward Ryan

Nancy Daugherty	July 2, 2006
Robert Daugherty	July 2, 2006
Josephine Shea	July 2, 2006
Michael Shea	July 2, 2006
Gordon "Barry" Bullock	October 22, 2006
Margaret Bullock	October 22, 2006

Submitted by,

Ruth J. Fiddes  
Registrar

## Missions Board 2006

The Mission Board has been busy this year. For our primary mission – to coordinate offerings for purposes outside the church – we have begun to notify the congregation in the *Spire* instead of sending out letters, thus saving paper and dollars. We have given money from OGHS and Blanket Sunday to Church World Service, from the Emig Lecture to the lecturer, Ralph Andreano, and a charity of his choice, and from the Christmas Offering to South Providence Ministries, CANE, Johnny Cake Center, and Welcome House. Again the children of the church supported the Heifer Project. The Women’s Fellowship also contributes to Missions, both with dollars and hard work on school bags and health kits. Because last year our congregation contributed so generously to Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and Pakistan earthquake victims, we decided to add an extra offering: “Floating Disaster Relief.” Luckily no sudden disasters have occurred! But we are hoping to use that offering early next year for the dire situation in Darfur. We also hope to sponsor a “Crop Walk” for world hunger in the spring of 2007.

Our Mission Projects budget was cut this year from \$6000 to \$4600. Recipients were S.K. Habitat for Humanity, CANE, SPNM, and “One RI,” which includes such groups as RI Kids Count, Statewide Housing Action Coalition, RI Coalition for the Homeless and the RI Community Food Bank.

The BOM/SJ has two subcommittees or “Task Forces” – The Peace and Justice Task Force and the Environmental Task Force.

The Peace and Justice Task Force now has a Mission statement: *The mission of the Peace and Justice Task Force of Kingston Congregational Church is to promote peace and support justice in our personal lives, our families, communities, our nation and the world. Through education and calls to action, we strive to expand awareness of contemporary issues and support initiatives relating to peace and justice.* The task force is currently gathering names for a list of e-mail addresses for those who would like to keep up on such contemporary issues from the point of view of the National UCC. Already we have over 30 on the list. Last September we sponsored a speaker to discuss issues such as donating one’s body for research. Also, several church members attended a walk for the homeless/affordable housing. Steve and Joyce Desposito spoke to us and will return to our church on January 21st, 2007 in our “Minute for Missions” to talk about a possible Peace Department in the U.S. Government. We sponsored the Emig Lecturer last February – and even fed him lunch. Our next Emig Lecture on February 11, 2007 will be Delle McCormick. Delle led the Mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico that inspired Tina Letcher of the Task Force to begin the 5-year project to support “Angelina’s Shelter for Girls” in Chiapas. (We have just held a Mexican pot-luck dinner to support the shelter with good attendance and great food! –and raised about \$300 for the shelter). Delle is currently head of the “BorderLinks” organization in Tucson, Arizona and is a dynamic speaker. There will be a state-wide meeting with Delle to discuss immigration issues on Saturday, February 10, 2007. In March we held our 5th Community Peace Service with many members of neighboring churches involved in the planning, and we’re already organizing for that occasion on March 11, 2007.

The Environmental Task Force keeps us informed about the connection between spirituality and the environment. There will be a showing of “An Inconvenient Truth” on January 17 at 7 o’clock in the Fireplace Room.

We’re still hoping to establish a third Task Force to coordinate our work with local issues. Volunteers are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Letcher for your Board of Missions:

Carolyn Barwise, Cindy Buxton, Nina Gowell, Mark Mersereau, Jean Miller and Patty Stout

## Women's Fellowship 2006

The Women's Fellowship of KCC is open to all women who are members or friends of this congregation. Our purpose is:

To provide friendship and support and to nurture each woman's faith journey

To come together for education, entertainment and enjoyment

To donate our time, efforts and money to projects which benefit our church, our community and the world.

Our activities in 2006 included monthly meetings held at church. In January, a panel of KCC men shared enthusiastically about "Following Their Bliss"; each presentation was uniquely interesting. In February, we created Prayer Flags and signed Valentine cards for shut-ins. In March, following a delicious breakfast provided by the Men's Breakfast Crew, we assembled Infant, School and Health Kits for Church World Service distribution. April was an informative program on Women's Health Issues by Jean Miller, May was the Kingston Fair Lunch & Bake Sale and June was our Ice Cream Social & Annual Meeting. Fall Programs included a Potluck Supper and Sharing, Deb Tanner telling the story of Seniors Helping Others in South County and our lavish Mother-Daughter Gingerbread House Decorating Party! In December, bulb plantings were assembled for shut-ins and extras sold with a potpourri of donated crafts and gifts after church at our Christmas Sale. Our annual festive Christmas Dinner (76 attended) was concluded in the sanctuary with heartwarming carol singing together and a special seasonal story read by Jim Ross.

Women's Fellowship is very grateful for the support of our programs and fundraisers from so many in our KCC family! In addition to your generous response to our Annual Fall Appeal, Christmas Sale, special CWS Appeal and Kingston Fair projects, almost \$1,400 has been given in memory of Beverly O'Neil as designated by her caring family to be used for CWS Layette Kits, a cause to which Bev lovingly donated many hours of sewing.

Your generous financial donations (tax-deductible, of course) enabled us to contribute \$2,629.57 to purchase items, which were assembled with those donated into a grand total of 512 Kits! (12 Kids' Kits, a new variety, were included.) In addition, a total of \$1900 was contributed to local service organizations including South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, Camp Ruggles, RI UCC Conference Camperships, South County Church Women United, Women's Resource Center, Jonnycake Center, CANE Child Development Center, Seniors Helping Others and South County Habitat for Humanity. We also contributed \$100 each to our KCC Junior and Senior High Fellowships and donated \$500 from our memorial fund toward the Plexiglas installed in the hallway and Fellowship Hall windows. **Our grand total of donations for 2006 was \$5,230!!**

**A big thank-you to everyone, board members and the many volunteers, who worked so hard to make all the above happen with special kudos to Past President Helen Rowe-Drake for her strong commitment and creative leadership!**

Respectfully submitted,  
Canna Falby & Karen Tucker, Co-Presidents

## Flower Committee Report January 10, 2007

The committee organized the weekly flowers for the sanctuary and distributed them to people named in prayers and others with special needs.

The sanctuary was decorated for both Easter and Christmas services. The use of this artificial greenery during the Christmas season has resulted in a substantial savings for the church.

We continued our efforts with the visiting committee and at Easter almost every homebound member (including those in nursing homes and assisted living) received a lily. At Christmas a poinsettia was sent to our shut-in members and with other poinsettias going to area nursing homes and the women's shelter. (Thanks to the large donations of plants from the congregation).

The new order form for the lilies and poinsettias proved to be both successful and convenient. We had a record number of Easter lilies this spring and this Christmas we had 50 poinsettias decorate our church sanctuary. The "memorial flower" cards that have been placed in the pew benches have also been well received.

We were short committee members in 2006 and it required some members to contribute more time with flowers than in the past. The committee is full at the start of the 2007 calendar year.

Vickie Wallace and Claudia Smith will continue to serve as co-chairs of the flower committee for 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Wallace and Claudia Smith

## **Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase Report of the Cemeteries Committee May 2, 2006**

The Cemeteries Committee supervises three cemeteries: Old Fernwood and Tower Hill belong to the Society, and the Peckham Family Cemetery belonging to that family. The Tower Hill Cemetery, on the site of the first church building in the history of the Kingston Congregational Church, had its first burial in 1719 and the last one in 1944, Bernon E. Helme. Although inactive since then, it is still available for use. The Peckham Family Cemetery is restricted to use by members of that family, but is cared for by our committee in accordance with an agreement made with the late Dorothy Peckham who contributed \$5,000 to our endowment for that purpose. Old Fernwood is divided into two parts: the original section was given by Elisha Reynolds Potter in 1826 for use by members of this Society and of the church, and by people living within one mile of the church or of the cemetery. The extension of Old Fernwood landscaped in the 1960's and put into use in the 1990's, was given by Herbert J. Wells in 1927 for use by members of this Society and of the church and their families.

Edward Young conscientiously cares for Old Fernwood, where he began service in 1970, and for the Peckham Family Cemetery. Scott Wallace has given the same quality of care to the Tower Hill Cemetery.

We have been working with the continuing problem of lichen growth on the monuments, cleaning stones as suggested by the historical cemetery associate. At the 2005 autumn work day six volunteers trimmed vines and cleaned stones.

During the past year (June 2005-May 2006), five members of this Society and the church have died and been interred in the cemetery: Roger Bond (March 2005), Kenneth Munroe, Marie Rieser, Jackson Swann, and Rachel Higgins.

Our desire is to make the cemeteries in every respect places of honor to the dead and of comfort to their relatives and friends. Lots remain available in both cemeteries, with contributions to the endowment fund of \$250 a plot from members of the church and \$400 from nonmembers. These rates will be raised this year in line with other cemeteries. Reservations may be made for future use, and a number of families have elected to have monuments placed on their lots even many years in advance of actual use, thus easing the burden on the family at a time of great sorrow.

Respectfully submitted: Cheslie Carpenter, Elizabeth McNab, Richard Shaw, and William Metz, Chair  
Patricia Moore was welcomed to the Committee after this report was presented.

**The Kingston Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 29, 2006**

Moderator, Angelo Mendillo, called the meeting to order at 10:40AM. A quorum was declared with at least 55 members attending.

Information distributed: Agenda for Annual meeting, Annual Report, revised budget for 2006.

**It was M/S/P to elect Nancy Holland as temporary clerk for the Council.**

It was M/S/P to adopt the agenda for today.

It was M/S/P to accept the minutes of the October 23, 2005 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ben Smith reported that the deficit he anticipated in the Fall will actually be a surplus when all the final accounting is done.

**It was M/S/P to accept the treasurer's report as presented.**

**Stewardship**

Tom Butcher reported that the Stewardship campaign was a success. 2005 pledges actually exceeded the goal and 2006 pledges were a 6.6% increase over 2005. Pledge units remain the same. 39% of pledges were increased \$100.00 or more, 17% were \$100.00 or less, 38% remained the same and 6% were decreased. The median pledge is \$ 1,070.00. The stewardship committee is including a letter in the new member packets.

**It was M/S/P to accept the Stewardship report.**

**2006 Budget**

Jim Ross presented the 2006 budget. Actual budget is \$ 32,247.00 below anticipated budget. Questions included cuts to Missions' budget, Staff percentage allocations for raises, increase to insurance premiums, Music Director's salary.

**It was M/S/P to accept the budget for 2006.**

**Nominating Committee**

Sue Kermes presented the ballot for 2006 from the nominating committee. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

**It was M/S/P to accept the 2006 ballot.**

**President's Report**

Paul Schubert recognized and thanked all the people going off the boards and committees. There will be an All Board meeting on February 15, 2006.

Long range planning will begin to look at the possibility of a new church in South County.

**There was no old business.**

**New Business**

Joe Geary made a motion "To have all the expenses of the church be recorded and all the special gifts and income given for special projects be recorded."

After some discussion and assurances by Ben Smith that this was currently being done and would show up in the annual fiscal report, Joe withdrew his motion and the second was withdrawn.

**It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting.**

Jack Whitehead offered a prayer for closing.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Holland

## BALLOT FOR 2007

President	<b>Marcus Ferrelli</b>	(1) '07
Moderator	<b>Tom Butcher</b>	(1) '07
Clerk	<b>Nancy Holland</b>	(1) '08
Treasurer	Ben Smith	(2) '08
Assistant Treasurers	Grace Woodward	(1) '07
	Doug Kraus	(1) '07
Registrar	<b>Loretta Shaw</b>	'07
Archivist/Historian	William Metz	'07
Council at Large	<b>Faye Boudreaux-Bartels</b>	(1) '09
	<b>Jacque Piez</b>	(*) '09
	Jim McGrath	(2) '07
	Wayne Svehlik	(2) '07

President and Moderator are one-year terms. All other church officers are two-year terms. Board and standing committee members are elected for three years (one term) and are limited to two terms (6 years). The first number indicates first or second term. The second number indicates December of the year in which term expires.

( \* ) indicates persons who filled mid-term vacancies. **Bold type indicates persons to be voted on.**

### Board of Deacons

<b>Louise Pearson</b>	(1) '09	<b>Deb Shaw</b>	(*) '07
<b>Ellen Henry</b>	(2) '09	Nancy Ross	(1) '07
<b>Frank Lenox</b>	(2) '09	Paulette Osterman	(2) '08
<b>Diana Geisler</b>	(1) '09	Thomas Brillat	(2) '08
Lora Hahn Schubert	(2) '07	Kevin Pelton	(1) '08
Andrea Richardson	(1) '07	Linda Mendillo	(1) '08

### Board of Trustees

<b>Audrey Hallberg</b>	(1) '09	Craig Thompson	(1) '07
<b>Richard Shaw</b>	(2) '09	Jim Ross	(2) '08
<b>Sharon Davis</b>	(2) '09	Wayne Lee	(2) '08
David Cox	(2) '07	Carol Blanpied	(1) '08
Ben Smith -Treasurer	(1) '07	Bob Saurette	(1) '08
Jeff Richardson	(1) '07	Bob Scott	(1) '08

### Board of Christian Education

<b>Gary Harlow</b>	(1) '09	Susan Buntz	(1) '07
<b>Sandee Andrew</b>	(1) '09	Jan Blackwell	(1) '07
<b>Michelle Davis</b>	(1) '09	Paul Mello	(1) '07
Jack Beliveau	(1) '07	Jill Dumican	(1) '08
<b>Nancy Pelton</b>	(*) '07		

### Board of Mission and Social Justice

<b>Carolyn Barwise</b>	(2) '09	Nina Gowell	(1) '07
<b>Tina Letcher</b>	(2) '09	Cindy Buxton	(2) '08
<b>Mark Mersereau</b>	(2) '09	Jane Bridges	(1) '08
Jean Miller	(*) '07	Daniel Reifsteck	(2) '08
Patty Stout	(1) '07		

### Stewardship Committee

<b>Michael Shay</b>	(1) '09	Stephen Clegg	(2) '08
<b>Doris Findlay</b>	(1) '09	Tom Heald	(1) '08
Ken Kermes	(1) '07	<b>Carolyn Henn</b>	(*) '07

### Music Committee

<b>Beverly Stringer</b>	(2) '09	<b>Lisa Harlow</b>	(*) '07
<b>James Nelson</b>	(2) '09	Margaret Bradley	(2) '08
Elizabeth McNab	(2) '07	Claudia Smith	(1) '08

**Rosemary Wilson** (2) '09  
**Jacque Piez** (1) '09  
 Deb Shaw (1) '07  
**Elizabeth McNab** (1) '09  
**Rebecca Harlow – youth** (1) '08

**Committee of Delegates**

Canna Falby (2) '08  
 Cliff Falby (1) '08  
 Joann Svehlik (1) '08  
 Wayne Svehlik (1) '08

**Connie Fitzelle** (2) '09  
**Brad Asher** (1) '09  
 Sue Kermes (1) '07

**Nominating Committee**

Holly Washburn (1) '07  
 Susan Perkins Brillat (1) '08

**Susan Macy** (1) '09  
**Earl Chambers** (1) '09  
 David Deuel (1) '07  
 Richard Geisler (2) '08

**Investment Committee**

John Ferry (2) '07  
 Nelson Weiderman (2) '07  
 Jim Aukerman (2) '08

**Standing committees nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by Council:**

Ellen Henry (2) '07  
**Steve Washburn** (1) '09

**Human Resource Committee**

Laura Nelson (1) '08

**Jan Wright** (2) '09

**Audit Committee**

George Fiddes (1) '07

Bonnie Baker-Daigle (2) '08





