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Annual Report from the Senior Pastor

January 2009

Vision for Our Fourth Century

The Annual Meeting of the Church should be a time of CELEBRATION! The people of the Kingston Congregational Church have much to celebrate as we pause to thank God for the wonderful, active, growing year we have enjoyed:

- worship services fed our souls and renewed our spirits
- cooks fed our appetites as we enjoyed meals and fellowships together
- adult education filled the year with opportunities to learn and grow
- music lifted our spirits
- in blue jeans, volunteers cleaned, washed, mopped, and repaired
- the sounds of laughter and playful children filled our hallways
- Junior and Senior High youth operated with red-hot enthusiasm
- we embraced new babies with baptisms and celebrated the lives of members and friends who died
- more than 100 volunteers ran the church, on boards and committees, in classrooms and the choir loft, in the kitchen and fellowship hall.
- Family life activities, suppers, lectures, concerts, celebrations, mission fairs, parties, and festivals filled our schedules, along with the active programs of the Women's Fellowship and the Men's Fellowship. One member looking at the weekly bulletin said, *"There's so much going on that you can't possibly do everything."*

Heartfelt appreciation is due to our Council President Marcus Ferrelli for his second year of outstanding and seasoned Council leadership, along with Board Chairs Frank Lenox (Deacons), Sharon Davis (Trustees), Michelle Davis (Christian Education), and Tina Letcher (Missions and Social Justice). Profound gratitude is offered to all who have served the church this year.

The Kingston Congregational Church is blessed beyond what we can know with an all-star staff. Each one performs at the top of his or her game, interacts as a valued team member, and is among the best and the brightest in his or her field:

- **Enrico Garzilli,** music director
- **Joanne Gyorgy**, church school director
- **Shirley Schock**, church secretary
- **Cathy White**, financial secretary
- **Andy Cournoyer,** church sexton

Since I have been your Pastor, I have welcomed in 188 new members. Five years ago, I looked to see how many towns and villages they came from: there were 19 then. Last month, I looked again: now our members come from 29 towns and villages. We are a different congregation. We are growing in new ways, attracting a wider variety of ages, stages, and locations. This used to be a village church. It is no longer. Now KCC has become known as a regional church and we need to figure out new ways to meet the needs and assimilate the members who come to us in new ways.

The Book of Proverbs (29:18a, KJV) observes that

Where there is no vision, the people perish.

The global economic challenges of 2009 have trickled down to the Kingston Congregational Church and vision is needed for what to do. After seven good years of balanced budgets resulting in surpluses, 2008 did not and for 2009 there are insufficient pledges to meet the budget. KCC is hardly in danger of perishing… not physically, but vision is required to keep its soul healthy.

Vision in our setting does not proceed top-down from staff and leaders, but bottom-up from the foundation of the people. Nor is vision static. It continues to change and grow. We build upon a vision that:

- Considered **giving to purposes outside the church** as a high priority, to help those in need. The fastest growing and most thriving congregations in America are those that give the most to purposes outside of themselves. Those which are other-oriented have a sense of mission, vision, enthusiasm and even urgency. Those which become self-oriented face the danger of becoming festered in a culture of narcissism and live for not much more than self-perpetuation. In worst cases, instead of aspiring to become fishers of men and women, they become nothing more than keepers of the aquarium.
- Embraced **teaching and learning** as the key program of the church. Our teachers model to students that faith is important to them and provide them with information and values to help them grow as people of faith.
- Celebrated that our reason for existence is to **worship** God. Worship, in turn, calls us out of the Meetinghouse into the world to **serve** and to be ambassadors for that which is good, just, and right.
- Extended an extravagant **welcome** to all, as captured so well and inclusively by our poetic Welcome Statement.
- Envisioned its broader mission to be in covenant with the **United Church of Christ** and the Rhode Island Conference, providing resources, volunteers, and staff time so that we may be a part of the wider Church's work in the state, the nation, and the world.
- Under-girded its staff with support, encouragement, enthusiasm, and fairness in their ministry to the congregation. Compared to our "peer group" – churches our size in Rhode Island – KCC ranks last in staffing for clergy, education, music, office, and facilities. Of our six, five are part-time. We are the only one of our peers without an ordained Associate Pastor. KCC's staff has become proficient at doing more with less, yet longs for more help to provide the best that can be done.
- Maintained its historic facility with pride, keeping beautiful its external and keeping healthy its infrastructure. Like the TV show *"This Old House,"* the care of our old Meetinghouse requires dedication, shirtsleeves hard work, and constant commitment.

We have had a 300 year history and survived rough times before. We will do it again. But mere survival is not enough. We need a vision for our FOURTH CENTURY! We need to know who we are, whose we are, and what we feel called to do.

Fortunately, we are poised to consider those very questions with our Strategic Planning efforts set in place. Our vision for KCC's 4th Century must include the following:

1. Vision in the congregational tradition flows from the people. It is a shared vision. It must, however, include representation from all of the membership.

2. Vision must be based in prayer and in seeking God's leading. Psalm 127:1a says *"Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."* The question is NOT what kind of church do we want to be. Rather, we must ask, *"What kind of congregation is God calling us to become?"*

3. Vision challenges us to believe in ourselves. *If you think you can or can't, you are right*, said a corporate CEO. *They can conquer who believe they can*, observed a Roman General. We must believe we can face the challenges. Though the solutions are unseen and feel elusive, we will believe that we can proceed in our 4th century with a wholeness to our soul and a sense of vision, purpose and mission in our spirit. The health of the soul of the Kingston Congregational Church may be the most important part of our life together.

I offer my thanks to you, for reading this Annual Report and for your participation in the life of this family of faith.

In His Service,

John Wm. Zehring

President's Annual Message 2008

2008 has been a year of reflection and self-examination for the Kingston Congregational Church. We adopted a Mission Statement to guide our future programs and activities, And now, we are ready to participate, over the next few months, in small group meetings to set specific goals for the next 3-5 years. The challenges are countless. **What does God expect of the Kingston Congregational Church?**

The leaders of our boards and committees need reliable support to fulfill their responsibilities to the church and congregation. These leaders have worked tirelessly over the past year and deserve our support and gratitude.

The changing social and economic landscape makes it imperative that we take advantage of the additional opportunities for the KCC to be increasingly proactive in meeting the needs of the various communities we serve. Along with the opportunities comes the realization that **each of us** has a responsibility to participate and contribute to the best of our abilities. We are challenged to thoughtfully consider, "Can I do more to help?"

I am looking forward to 2009 with enthusiasm and optimism. I am confident that Our Church Family will distinguish itself with its good works.

Marc Ferrelli

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.

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.
Amy Hubertus

Committee Members for 2008: Ernest Torres, Amy Hubertus, Jan Blackwell, Frank Lenox, Sharon Alemany, George Fitzelle

Board of Deacons – Annual Report 2008

The Board of Deacons planned for and fulfilled the needed duties to allow Rev. Zehring to take the second 6 weeks of his contracted sabbatical. This was largely possible because of the role of the Assistant to the Pastor, Kevin Munroe. The Assistant was able to conduct services, perform ceremonies, and make visitations. We are very grateful for his services.

Kevin's term as Assistant to the Pastor ended in August, 2008. It is the intention of the Board of Deacons not to continue this position at the recommendation of the Sr. Pastor.

Services this year were conducted by members Helen Rowe Drake and Britt Foss. Paul Jacobs conducted a service as part of Stewardship Sunday.

The Board of Deacons has initiated the process to prepare a new Church Directory for the 2009 year. Planning meetings will be taking place in the winter of 2009.

The Board of Deacons is represented by: Frank Lenox (Chair), Tom Brillat (Secretary), Diana Geisler, Dottie Leduc, Michael McMahon, Linda Mendillo, Paulette Osterman, Lou Pearson, Kevin Pelton, Andrea Richardson, Nancy Ross, and Deb Shaw.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Lenox, Chair

Annual Report 2008
Music Director/Organist

I very much enjoy being organist and music director here at Kingston Congregational Church. I believe this past year again has truly been a wonderful musical and worshipful experience.

The adult and junior choirs have been excellent in their dedicated contribution to Worship. The repertoire of anthems for the 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 Choir sings on the fourth Sunday of the month and on special feasts. Kristen Couturier and Andrea Richardson along with other parents have been generous and faithful in their superb work with the children. Normally, the children sing on the fourth Sunday of the month, as well as on Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and Easter.

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 Worship. 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 Peloquin, 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 has done a great job in the planning and promotion of the concerts. I deeply appreciate the excellent work of this committee. On a personal note, I have continued to compose music for both concert performances and services. I have also continued to conduct the South County Chamber Singers. On Palm Sunday, we performed the music of Mozart, Faure and Durufle at St. Francis Church in Wakefield. In November of this year, we performed the RI premiere of “Mass for Peace” by Karl Jenkins at the Courthouse for the Arts. Members of the URI orchestra, the community, and URI's Lively Experiment joined us.

I would like to thank the music committee for their excellent leadership. Their help, advice, and encouragement have been invaluable. I would also like to thank Diana Geisler and Grace Woodward 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

Music Committee Report – 2008

The Music Committee continues to maintain the organ and pianos of the Church and to insure that all music equipment is in good order. This year our multicolored new choir stoles arrived so that the choir has the option of wearing three different styles depending on the season and occasion. The new stoles give a bright, cheerful look. In an effort to include the choir in the church services monitors have been installed in the choir loft. Thanks to Gary Harlow and Alan Embree for helping the Committee to achieve this goal.

Thank you to Enrico Garzilli, our Senior and Junior Choirs, readers Jim Findlay, Marissa McMahon, Nathan Bartels and Rachel Marino, soloist Sharon Davis, and coordinator Elizabeth McNab for beginning the year with the musical rendition "I Have Been to the Mountain." Each Sunday brings a full program of choir and music.

We are considering the possibilities for improving the safety of the choir loft.

Hats off to Patty Stout for her dedication and creativity as chair person of the Concert Committee.

Look for details in the *Spire* as we plan to celebrate Enrico's ten wonderful years at the KCC.

Respectively submitted,
Claudia Smith for the Music Committee

Members: Beverly Stringer Co-chair, Margaret Bradley, Lisa Harlow, James Nelson, Paul Schubert

KCC Concert Series Report 2008

The KCC Concert Series, an ad hoc committee under the Music Committee, has met regularly to present a wide variety of three performances for the church and the local community. A self supporting entity and independent of KCC, this series has been temporarily set aside until there can be greater support from the church. Dates were difficult to procure that were not in conflict with local events. Sponsors, patrons and friends from 16-18 church families generously supported these concerts, assisted by suggested donations of $10 and $15 at each concert. Attendance ranged from 35-80 music lovers. Britt and Meredith Foss prepared elegant receptions after each concert. It is hoped that these concerts will resume in the near future with possibly one large concert annually. A wide variety of musicians continues to inquire about our concert series.

The first concert of 2008 was the Northeast Chamber Trio, a part of the Northeast Chamber Ensemble, on February 3 at 3 pm, Sunday, and was held in the Sanctuary. The musicians were Theresa Patton Pope, flute, Jane Murray, oboe and Susan Wood, bassoon. The second concert was "Songs of Motherhood" with mezzo-soprano Valerie Nicolosi, accompanied by pianist Jean Anderson Collier on May 10 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. The third concert was the Klezphonics, a five member band, with Marc Adler, clarinet, Christina Crowder, accordion, Gerry Glaser, trumpet and Michael Goldberg, percussion with Amy Olson, vocals and dance leader, performing in the Fellowship Hall. These concerts not only opened up KCC to members of the community outside the church but the presentation of Klezmer music expanded the horizon of the church.

These concerts were initiated many years ago by Susan Millis and Stephen Martorella. Margaret Bradley continued them until Delight Carpenter became the chairperson in April 2004. She continued a successful run through December 2007. Her committee included Helen Behrens, Angelo Mendillo, Edgar Leduc, Dianne Kinsey, Lisa Harlow, Bill Bartels, Patty Stout, Grace Woodward, Phyllis Whitehead, and Britt Foss. In January 2008 Lisa Harlow and Patty Stout became co-chairs with Britt Foss and Bill Bartels continuing on the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Stout

KCC Board of Trustees Annual Report - 2008

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the 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 2008 were: Carol Blanpied, Pat Cox, Sharon Davis (Chair), Britt Foss, Dick Geisler (Treasurer), Audrey Hallberg, Doug Kraus, Wayne Lee, Jeff Richardson (Vice Chair), Bob Saurette, Dick Shaw, and Craig Thompson. Thanks to all of them for their service.

Numerous projects were conducted during the year. TV monitors were installed in the choir loft. Andy has been working around the church making various repairs. A new wooden bench has been placed outside of the kitchen doorway by Audrey Hallberg. Thanks to Audrey and everyone who created a concrete pad for the bench. Audrey Hallberg and Pat Cox have also made several repairs, worked in the gardens, and have painted several outside church walls. Jeff Richardson made several repairs around the church in response to a fire code review conducted by the local fire chief. We received $5,000 this year from the Potter Fund. This money was used to repair the church's chimneys. Two very successful Blue Jean Sundays were held in May and November this year. The Trustees would like to thank everyone for their participation. We would also like to thank the many other people of our congregation who have contributed their time, talent and gifts (i.e. books to the library, plants, etc.) to maintaining the physical aspects of our church throughout the year.

The Trustees obtained property and liability insurance quotes from four brokers and saved over $4,800. We will still be using the UCC insurance broker because they lowered their price this year. The Audit Committee completed an audit of the endowment fund per the by-laws and made several minor recommendations for procedure changes. Dick Geisler is working with everyone to implement these recommendations. Pat Cox took the lead for the Trustees 2008 fund raiser. We have made $550 profit selling wooden replicas of the church sanctuary, fellowship hall and church school building.

This year the Trustees investigated the cost and ramifications of modifying the organ façade and decided not to recommend making the modification. The Kitchen Ad-hoc Committee also obtained quotes for renovating the church's kitchens based on the plans drawn by Ann Lenox. The Trustees would like to thank Ann for the generous donation of her time and talent. Initial quotes are $100,000-$125,000 and Arnold Lumber is no longer able to donate the kitchen cabinets. Therefore the Trustees have decided to obtain modest quotes for a new stove, ask the Women's Fellowship to donate a new refrigerator, obtain quotes for paint to paint the existing cabinets, etc. and submit a small kitchen renovation request to the Potter Fund for 2009.

The stewardship committee conducted a formal stewardship campaign this year. A budget hearing was held on November 30, 2008 at 10:45am to allow the congregation time to review a draft of the FY2009 budget based on these pledges and to have more budget discussion time. An additional budget hearing is scheduled for January 11, 2009 to finalize the FY2009 budget that will be voted on at the January 25, 2009 Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis, Chairperson
KCC Board of Trustees

Membership Report

Members as of January 1, 2008		**551**
Additions:		
Confirmations:	7	
New Members:	7	
Total Additions:		**14**
Losses:		
Death:	12	
Inactive:	1	
Total Losses:		**13**
Members as of December 31, 2008		**552**
Baptisms:	13	
Marriages	1	

Baptisms:	Date
Caroline Jane Strough	January 6, 2008
Aaron Robert Jarbeau	February 17, 2008
Stephanie Couturier	March 9, 2008
Grace Lenore Major	April 13, 2008
Andrew Benjamin Geaber	April 13, 2008
Hannah Gladys Geaber	April 13, 2008
Lilah Arlene Simoes	June 15, 2008
Sara Kyungme Munroe	June 22, 2008
Calista Elaine Weber	August 24, 2008
Ward William Weber	August 24, 2008
Taylor Faith Bambara	October 12, 2008
Francisca Lezaeta Gregory	November 2, 2008
Marah Anne Nelson	December 28, 2008

Marriages:	
Brook Ross and Christina Dewi	April 12, 2008

New Members:	
Confirmands:	March 9, 2008
Stephanie Couturier	
Brendan Dumican	
Kyle Farrell	
Sean Farrell	
Rebecca Mather	
Molly Tortolani	
Katie Wakefield	
Laurel Ferrelli	April 20, 2008
David Heffron	April 20, 2008
Tracy Heffron	April 20, 2008
Jennifer Collins	October 5, 2008
David Remington	October 5, 2008
Michael Salvadore	October 5, 2008
Tracey Salvadore	October 5, 2008

Deaths:	Virginia Cottrell		January 7, 2008
	Zephyrus McCartney	non-member	February 8, 2008
	Cheslie Carpenter		February 15, 2008
	David Curtis		February 19, 2008
	Gordon "Barry" Bullock		April 15, 2008
	Joseph H. Geary		June 11, 2008
	James Hoefer	non-member	June 21, 2008
	Clifford Cosgrove	non-member	July 24, 2008
	Marion D. Thompson		August 18, 2008
	Sterling Ivison		August 16, 2008
	Katherine Howard		August 21, 2008
	Marion Spicer Harrison	non-member	August 23, 2008
	Phil Carpenter		October 10, 2008
	Elizabeth Ferry		November 10, 2008
	Dorothy F. Woods		November 24, 2008
	John Hatch		December 22, 2008

Respectfully submitted by,

Loretta H. Shaw
Registrar

Treasurer's Annual Message 2008

Two thousand and eight was a financially challenging year for KCC. As recently as 9/30/08 we were facing a $30,000 deficit. During the fourth quarter both pledge and plate offering along with other operating income made up for some of the lost ground during the spring and summer quarters. While fundraiser revenue didn't meet the inflated budgeted amount of $30,000, we did manage to generate $12,000. On the expense side, all Boards kept spending flat or below 2007 levels and below the 2008 budgeted amount. Staffing expenses were 2.4% above 2007 levels but 2.1% below the 2008 budgeted amount. At year end the deficit had been reduced to $13,900. Not good…..but certainly well below the $30,000 we were facing just 3 months ago. For a more detailed account of the Treasurer's Report please refer to the footnotes and comments at the bottom of each page.

The second piece of information I'd like to provide is a Fund Activity Report. This highlights our two liquid assets, the checking account and money market account along with our liabilities, business, individuals and all of the various funds. Since we generally pay our bills within 30 days, the business and individual lines are usually $0.00. On 12/31/2008 assets were $97,439, down $9095 from $106,533 on 12/31/2007. On the other hand, liabilities were $53,626 on 12/31/2008 up $2312 from $51,314 on 12/31/2007. This resulted in a decrease of our surplus by $11,407 to $43,813, or looked at in a different way, it represents only about 1-½ months of operating expenses.

If there are any questions about these reports or any other "Treasurer" issues, please don't hesitate to ask.

Submitted by,

Richard Geisler, Treasurer

Nominating Committee Report for 2008

The Nominating Committee began meeting in the 1st quarter of 2008 to review the many positions that needed to be filled. At that time there were 14 positions to be filled between the various boards and committees. That number of replacements grew to well over 20 as members dropped off committees and others chose not to do a 2nd term.

As committee chair I personally presented to the All Boards Meeting, the Church Council and the Trustees asking them for help in identifying potential candidates. This worked well as we were able to fill positions using this recruitment method. Reverend Zehring was extremely helpful in providing ideas for candidates as well as their occupations which helped matching with boards.

We continued to meet quarterly to review progress of finding replacements and began to narrow down possible candidates. Each meeting we prepared of new list of the positions still open and minutes of each meeting were kept by Nancy Tortolani.

The good news is that this year we were able to get many new members actively involved on the committees and boards. Many of these new members were young which will help serve our needs in future years.

Prior to the January 2009 quarterly meeting there are still two positions to be filled, one on the Stewardship Committee and one on the Board of Christian Education.

Thank you to all committee members, all board members and to Reverend Zehring for their dedication and support.

Susan Perkins Brillat chose not to renew for her 2nd term and she was replaced by Matt Simeone.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Asher
Nominating Committee Chair

Committee Members: Brad Asher, Sue Kermes, Susan Perkins-Brillat, Connie Fitzelle, Tom Holland, and Nancy Tortolani

Committee Members: Brad Asher, Sue Kermes, Susan Perkins-Brillat, Connie Fitzelle, Tom Holland, and Nancy Tortolani

Missions Board Report for 2008

Lately we members of the Missions Board have figured out that when we take our four "Mission" offerings each year, people aren't always sure exactly what happens to that money. So in October we invited people from the groups listed in our Missions Projects budget to talk about what they do with it. The meeting was well attended and informative. We were lucky to have representatives here from the following groups who receive money from the 2008 Church Missions Projects budget of $5,000:

The Washington County Children's Coalition: Susan Orban
Habitat for Humanity: Jerry Sidio
CANE: Jane Potter
SPNM: Nancy Bancroft
Angelina's Shelter in Chiapas, Mexico: Tina Letcher

In addition, we have 4 SPECIAL OFFERINGS each year: Church World Service Projects (Blanket Sunday in the fall - $238 this year – and One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday - $4,135 - plus Women's Fellowship's hands-on projects like school kits and layettes).

For the Christmas Offering we often support local groups such as the Jonnycake Center or the Homeless Shelter. This year our Christmas Offering gave over $4,000 for these two organizations and South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, our church's special link with a state group. Christian Education supports the Heifer Project ($1,355 this year). The Women's Fellowship also supports several groups in their budget.

If there is a compelling disaster anywhere in the world, we can also take a special Disaster Offering. Offerings in recent years have included the Tsunami in Indonesia, Hurricane Katrina in the USA and Darfur in the Sudan. This year we responded to the terrible damage from the cyclone in Myanmar and the earthquake in China with a generous gift of $3,676 to Church World Service.

The two Missions Board Task Forces work very hard to inform us of timely issues.

The Environmental Task Force makes sure the church recycles and uses energy wisely, and gives us tips for "green" living each month in the *Spire*. This year we again encouraged getting the *Spire* online to save trees and presented a petition to President-elect Obama on the environment.

The Peace and Justice Task Force relays information from the National UCC about social justice issues. Each February they invite a speaker on such issues to the pulpit and for discussion afterwards. This year Natasha Miller from the National UCC Conference Environmental Group spoke to us. Every year this Task Force also sponsors a Community Peace Service in March. Recently they have become firm advocates for the "Peace Alliance," proposing that the U.S. Cabinet include a Peace Department as well as a War Department.

Others of you in the congregation contribute daily in so many ways! For instance, Neil Ross and Tom Brillat took their Scout Troop to the Dominican Republic and Tyler Blanpied fulfilled his Eagle Scout requirement by building a playground in the same country with his dad and his friends. Others joined the Walk for the Homeless Shelter, or worked for the Coalition for Children or Jonnycake. The Senior High Fellowship will soon go on a mission trip to New Orleans. There are so many things that we support as people of faith!

Submitted by Tina Letcher, Chair of the Board of Missions: Jean Bambara, Carolyn Barwise, Britt Bell, Clark Bridgman, Jen Collins, Carol MacKenzie, Christy Saurette and Sara Simeone

2008 Annual Report
Board of Christian Education

The start of 2008 began with the election of a new chairman, Ms. Michelle Davis. We also welcomed four new members of the board: Ms. Barbara Hart, Ms. Nancy Pelton, Ms. Lori Ann Heiner, and Ms. Susan Gallagher. They joined Ms. Sandee Andrew, Mr. Jack Beliveau, and Ms. Jill Dumican. The Board selected Mr. Jack Beliveau to represent the CE Board on the Strategic Planning Committee. Ms. Jill Dumican continued to act as the CE secretary as well as the liason to the Senior High Youth Fellowship.

The Board met once a month for the year, excluding the month of December. The activities we participated in included helping the Church School Director, Ms. Joanne Gyorgy, with the Heifer Project collection in February. We conducted a Spring Open House in April where Ms. Gyorgy had a survey for members to fill out asking questions about the church school program. These survey results were reviewed by the Board to determine where improvements could be made. The survey results showed that overall, most people were happy with the church school program and feel that a child's relationship with the teacher is very important. Seventy-four percent of the respondents were aware of the safe church policy.

Another Open House was sponsored by the CE Board at the beginning of the new church school year in September for parents to meet Sunday School teachers and receive information about the curriculum.

Ms. Gyorgy and the Board sponsored a Teacher Appreciation Sunday and provided lunch to teachers as a gift for their service. Graduating seniors received books as gifts from the church and third and fourth graders also received Bibles. A new curriculum was approved by the Board and purchased for the preschool classroom.

The confirmation class was restructured for the 2008-2009 year due to a small class size to include 8th and 9th grade students and classes will begin in 2009.

The Reverend John Zehring conducted an adult education series in April entitled "The Hard Sayings of Jesus". Other adult education programs for the 2008 year included the "Gospel of Mark" taught by Mr. Mark Coffey and "A Sacred Conversation on Race Continued: My Story" by Ms. Sharon Davis. These last two series were held after church and were quite successful. The 2009 adult education series will include "Ecumenism" taught by Mr. Jim Findley, "World Religions" taught by Mr. Jeff Richardson, "The legacy and lessons learned at a time of National Crisis: Internment of persons of Japanese Ancestry during WWII", taught by Mr. Glenn Kumekawa, and "Moms and Faith" taught by Ms. Cindy Dowgiallo.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Michelle Davis, Chair

2008 Annual Report
Christian Family Life Committee

Our first event of the year, the annual Mardi Gras Pancake Supper in February, was well attended by about 84 hungry members. They enjoyed hot pancakes, and sausages, with applesauce, fruit, and whipped cream while listening to lively Cajun music. New this year, the chocolate chip pancakes were very popular. The traditional King Cakes were also quite delicious. The children had fun creating elaborate Mardi Gras masks. Amy Hubertus did a great job planning the event.

About 100 church members enjoyed the Progressive Dinner in late April. A wonderful evening of fellowship was shared by all. Thank you to Cindy Shaw and Meredith MacDonald for all their hard work in planning this always popular event.

About 40 adults and 25 children attended the KCC Annual Church Picnic at South Kingstown's lovely Tuckertown Park on a beautiful sunny September afternoon. They enjoyed grilled beef and veggie burgers, with traditional picnic fare and, of course, watermelon. The children enjoyed the bubble machine, and played many lawn games provided by the committee. They were also able to make use of the park's playground equipment and basketball court. Thanks go to Chrissy Lockwood for the organizing this event.

In October we again hosted the Fall Festival at the church. There were plenty of delicious meatball sandwiches and apple crisp, and many new fun activities for the kids, such as a scary touch and feel station, a "dunking" for doughnuts activity, scary votive candle decorations, a spooky ghost walk, and a very amusing toilet paper mummy contest. We also included the ever popular pumpkin decorating and apple pie making activities. Thanks to the Senior Highs who helped out. Jen Jensen and Krista Reid planned a terrific event.

The Advent Workshop occurred on the Thanksgiving weekend and was not as well attended as in the past. The children enjoyed making beaded ornaments, snowflake crafts, 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 and Amy Hubertus 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 members Jen Jensen, Krista Reid, and Mary Daly to our committee this year. We regretfully said goodbye to outgoing members Kristen McGrath and Lori Ann Heiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lenox, Chair

Mary Daly, Cindy Dowgiallo, Karen Elliott, Amy Hubertus, Jen Jensen, Christine Lockwood, Krista Reid.

2008 Annual Report
Church School

Our church school at KCC is currently comprised of six classes that accommodate children from infants through eighth grade. Attendance averages between 30 and 50 students per week.

There are 12 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 most classes with the exception of grades five and six which has only one. We are truly blessed to have a committed, caring group of teachers, who give their time and talents, 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 and Sara Simeone
Grades Three and Four – Amy Hubertus and Jane Buxton
Grades Five and Six - Karen Elliot
Grades Seven and Eight - Mary Daly, Mike McMahon, Mike Coffey and Carol Shilling

We have again saved over two-thousand dollars this year by reusing previously purchased curriculum resources. We currently use "Hands- On- Bible" published by Group Publishing. This curriculum is used in Kindergarten through Grade Four. Grades Five through Eight, use a variety of resources provided by Christian Education and the individual teachers.

Two Church School open-house events were held this year – one in the spring and one on the first day of Church School classes in the fall. At the spring event the congregation was asked to complete a Church School survey in order for the Church School Director and the CE Board to assess the strengths and weaknesses of our Church School program. The results, which were published in the *Spire*, were mostly very positive. The overall satisfaction with the program, teachers and curriculum was high. The suggestions that were received were very helpful and the CE Board and Church School Director are working to see that they are all addressed.

The Church School Children again beat their previous record by raising $1,005.00 for Heifer Project International during February and March. During November and December they collected hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and toys, which decorated their "Mitten Tree". The items were then donated to the South Providence Neighborhood Ministries.

In September the fifth and sixth grade class hiked along the bicycle path in Kingston with their teacher, Karen Elliot, and her husband James to identify "Plants in the Bible" and in November they had "Breakfast with the Pastor" which they prepared and shared with Reverend Zehring.

On Christmas Eve, many of the children participated in the 4pm Worship Service, which was well attended and went very smoothly thanks to the assistance of Mike Couturier "backstage". Canna Falby provided the beautiful music for the service. Participants this year were Ben Hubertus, Alex Quarella, Scott Washburn, Kayla McMahon, Jessica Elliot, Chris Lenox, Catherine Lenox, Hillary Gallagher, Nate Hubertus, Allison Lenox, Kara Bissonnette, Tai Marino, Allison Gallagher, and the Junior Choir.

This year, there were not enough registrants to make it practical to participate in the collaborative Vacation Bible School at Canonicus Conference Center.

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
Church School Director

Women's Fellowship 2008

Women's Fellowship started off 2008 with a panel under Connie Fitzelle's leadership. On January 7th four men and four women from our church with the theme "Good Will Hunting" told stories of life events that were both uplifting and inspiring. In March the Fellowship again met in the Fireplace Room for Dottie Leduc's "A Walk in the Garden" - a springtime program to help us all renew, relax, and refresh. April 9th brought us together energized by a delicious breakfast prepared by the men of the church; we put together and boxed the Church World Service kits. Baked goods and a community luncheon were organized by Women's Fellowship for Kingston Fair Day on Saturday, May 17th. June 9th found the women enjoying Brickley's ice cream sundaes.

After a summer break September started up with a potluck during which we caught up with our KCC family's and friends' news. Dottie in October had us reading play parts and enjoying "These Doggone Elections," a comedy from the 1930 hills of North Carolina. November brought the gathering of mothers and daughters under the guidance of Claudia Smith to build and decorate 72 gingerbread houses for their own homes and gifts for others. Jan Kraus again ably oversaw our 2nd Annual Christmas Cookie Sale "Cookies by the Pound" on December 7th, Canna Falby coordinated our bulb planting, and our Christmas Dinner again filled the Hall with people and smells and sounds of the season.

From our "This Old Church" account we purchased coffee pots and tablecloth material with which sewers Ann Ross and Carolyn Barwise brightened our tables. Sunshine led by Carolyn Barwise continued to play an active role. A total of $2300 was contributed to local service organizations including South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, Camp Ruggles, RI Community Food Bank, 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 almost $900 to our Kitchen Fund/cookbook account.

Church World Service continues to be an important part of the Women's Fellowship program. This year under the always able direction of Helen Rowe-Drake we filled: 30 Baby Kits, 130 Health Kits, and 204 School Kits, or a total of 364 kits in 32 boxes=630 pounds of goods! This was all done with materials and $1877.90 donated by our KCC Community. Thank you to Ruth Fiddes and Canna Falby for keeping our accounts in order.

From start to finish 2008 was a good year and it couldn't have happened without the financial support, the contribution of time especially by our board members and many volunteers, our bakers, knitters, and sewers, and the KCC involvement by many. All were important in making 2008 in all ways such a success. Thank you.

We certainly fulfilled our purpose this year - 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.

Respectfully submitted from the Board,
Loretta Shaw and Elizabeth McNab, Co-Secretaries

Annual Report-Flower Committee 2008

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

The sanctuary was decorated for both Easter and Christmas services.
The new order form for the lilies and poinsettias has continued to be both successful and convenient. Lilies ordered this Easter totaled 36. 38 poinsettias were ordered for the Christmas display. We continued our efforts to distribute post holiday (Christmas and Easter) plants to shut-in members, area nursing homes and the women's shelter with the support of the visiting committee.

We also continued with the use of the "memorial flower" cards that are placed in the pew benches. New cards were placed in pews in September.

The cost of the weekly flowers has increased substantially and recommendations to address this concern and other committee concerns are being considered by the Deacons. Currently, church members are requested to submit $40.00 for a flower donation to offset added delivery fees to the flower invoices.

Vickie Wallace served as chairperson of the committee for 2008 and will continue to serve as chairperson for 2009. A change in the number of committee members was made in 2008. Currently, 10 members serve on the committee; reduced from 12 as flower committee responsibilities were omitted for the summer months of July and August. 2008 committee members included: Gail Farrell, Carla Entwistle, Nancy Tortolani, Elizabeth Asher, Sue Buntz, Karin Aukerman, Jan Torres, Kristen Franco, Jane Skogley and Vickie Wallace.

KCC Prayer Chain Report for 2008

During the past year we have had 218 requests from KCC MEMBERS AND 313 requests for prayer support from loved ones of our KCC members totaling 531 REQUESTS. One of our 18 prayer links, Abby Baird, recently died and Ed Carney has become a new prayer link in our prayer chain.

We would welcome any interested in this KCC form of ministry to become a new link. Each link agrees to pray each day at some time and to honor the confidentiality of each request. If you would like to become a prayer link OR would like daily prayer support please contact either

DELIGHT CARPENTER 789 - 8006
BEVERLY LARIMER 783 - 6388
LOU PEARSON 783 - 8975 or
CAROL SHILLING 783 – 5677

Back in 1979, Sue Kenyon suggested the idea of a prayer chain for our church similar to one she had known in New Jersey. Sue who is now 102 is STILL one of our faithful prayer links in our KCC prayer chain, (recently moved to South Bay Manor).

Submitted by Carol Shilling

Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase
Report of the Cemeteries Committee
May 6, 2008

Background - 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.

2007-2008 Report - David Alemany from Troop 1, Kingston developed as an Eagle Scout project the entrance into Old Fernwood Cemetery with a sign and landscaping. A dedication of his project took place on June 17, 2007. In September 2007 Edward Young retired from his caretaking position. He had held this position since 1970 at Old Fernwood and the Peckham Family Cemetery. Chris Faella, caretaker of New Fernwood Cemetery, has been employed to cover the routine maintenance for 2008. He ably took care of the large oak tree along with several other smaller trees from the March 5, 2008 blowdown. Scott Wallace continues to provide quality care of the Tower Hill Cemetery.

In December 2007 Al and Maryann Killelea reported that minor deteriorating of the stone wall segments had recently become more extensive. In January Mike McMahon, a stone mason and Deacon at KCC, measured the sections that had missing capstones on the two sections that face the old dirt highway. Approximately 60 feet of capstones, all sizable (each about two feet by 10 inches), have been removed from the wall. Pictures of the missing capstone areas were taken on January 12, 2008 along with some sections that were not disturbed. This theft was reported to the South Kingstown Police. Mr. McMahon will be reviewing possible repairs.

During the past year (May 2007-April 2008), two members of this Society and the church have been interred in the cemetery: Gail Rudginsky (August 26, 2007) and Bertha Coombs (October 5, 2007). At age 94 Cheslie Carpenter, a very active and knowledgeable member of the Committee, died on February 15.

This summer we plan on continuing updating our computer records with digital pictures of the monuments. The Rules and Regulations for Cemetery usage continue to be reviewed. We have been working with the worsening problem of lichen growth on the monuments, cleaning stones as suggested by the Association for Gravestone Studies.

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. Rates were raised on September 1, 2007 to $600 for non-members and $450 for members. 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. All reserved lots continue to be held in ownership by the Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase.

Respectfully submitted: Ann Ross, Elizabeth McNab, Richard Shaw, Patricia Moore
William D. Metz, Chairman