TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor	1
President	4
Board of Deacons	5
Music Director	6
Membership Report	7
Nominating Committee	8
Treasurer's Report	9
Investment Committee	10
Board of Missions	11
Peace and Justice Committee	12
Environmental Task Force	12
Board of Christian Education	13
Church School Director	14
Christian Family Life Committee	15
Women's Fellowship	16
Flower Committee	17
Prayer Chain	18
Cemeteries Committee	19
Ballot for 2010	20

Annual Report
Rev. Patricia L. Liberty
Interim Senior Minister

In the six short months since I joined the ministry of KCC as your Interim Senior Minister I am impressed by the diversity and strength of our shared ministry. It is a privilege to share this time with you as you celebrate the strengths of the past, navigate the inevitable changes and challenges of Interim time and prepare for the future.

Interim Time is a unique opportunity to build on strengths and shore up deficits. Interim Time means stepping back to see the big picture and make changes as needed. The work of Interim Time is qualitatively different from any other time and it is most fruitful when it unfolds in its own time and is not hurried. I often hear questions about why we don't already have a new minister or at least a Search Committee and I appreciate the energy behind such questions. We have work to do in this time that will help your new pastor succeed.

The Future Plan for Ministry, also known as the Strategic Plan, as well as the small groups provides a template for Interim Work. It is clear that we have numerous strengths to build on as well as some significant challenges to navigate. The Strategic Plan identifies five areas for growth and each of those areas relates to a specific aspect of Interim time. There are larger issues and questions behind each area.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH, RETENTION AND ASSIMILATION

Most churches have a desire to grow and KCC is no different. However, membership growth is not a goal; it is a byproduct of doing good ministry and having clarity about shared mission. Churches grow because they are doing meaningful ministry with each other and in the community AND they consistently issue an invitation for people to share in it.

Based on my analysis of membership records for the last ten years, our new member retention rate is about 60%. Research shows that from the time one joins a church, there is a six month window for assimilation. If new members do not find a community within the church in that six month window, they will be inactive in two years or less.

New member retention is contingent on intentional invitations to the various ministries and programs within the church. And such invitations are contingent on our excitement about and commitment to those ministries and programs.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACROSS THE LIE SPAN

We are ever and always a work in progress. Education lies close to the heart of a church's mission. Our greatest mission with one another is the invitation to grow in the faith and commit ourselves to the meaningful study of Scripture and modern commentary about being Christian in a post Christian age. In the United Church of Christ, the role of pastor is Pastor and Teacher…what kind of pastor will help KCC to fulfill the educational mission? How can we include the myriad talents of our lay people to assist?

There are many ways to share in the Educational Ministries outside of the local church, at the Conference level and the national level. Looking beyond our doors can help us expand our educational efforts.

OUR COMMUNITY ROLE

The question behind our role in the community is also a question of mission. What is God calling us to do in this moment? It is the foundation of what we will choose to do in the community. The needs are far beyond what one church can do; discernment about what God calls us to will help us choose.

A second area that needs attention is our overall identity. Specifically, I refer to the considerable anxiety in our congregation about the explicit welcome of particular populations, especially the GLBT community. If we are uncomfortable with who we say we are, everyone else will be too.

The decision to be or not to be Open and Affirming (either officially or non) is essentially a question of the Gospel. What do we believe about the Gospel, the work of Jesus Christ and the mission of the church? Any motivation less than a faith conviction simply will not do. A welcoming statement is not about being politically correct; it is about stating our gospel convictions with clarity, humility and integrity.

The United Church of Christ identifies as a community of radical inclusivity. The God is Still Speaking Initiative and the historic vote of the 2005 Synod to support marriage equality are distinctive in this moment of time.

As covenant partners in the United Church of Christ we need to clarify our relationship and grow in our understanding of what it means to be UCC. Being Congregational means sharing a covenant relationship with the Rhode Island Conference and the National Church. It is a sacred partnership that allows us to participate in missions far beyond what we can do on our own. It also means that we will be challenged by our national leadership to move beyond our comfort zones and consider honestly what we believe.

There is a looming question about our UCC identity and how we claim our heritage. We are part of a rich and noble history that includes a strong witness for social justice and risk taking prophetic call to radical faithfulness.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND PROCESS

There are several issues to consider in this arena. Changes to the by laws are made to empower mission and ministry. When a church reaches the size we are (about 450), the most significant change requires strengthening lay leadership and organizing the tasks of ministry in Boards and Committees, often called Ministries. Revising the by laws in light of the size transition will position the church for sustainable growth.

Second, there is a residual mistrust in leadership that is both understandable and curable. As the Church Council reassembles after the Annual Meeting we will build on the strengths of Marc Ferrelli's leadership and direction. Increased communication and transparency are commitments your leaders make; in return we ask for your forbearance and flexibility.

Finally, it is important to realize that the Church is a covenant community that binds us in relationship to each other and to God. As such, I ask that you pray daily for this church, for the leaders, and for a renewed sense of mission and ministry.

STEWARDSHIP GROWTH

Most churches struggle financially at one time or another, regardless of the economy. The struggle has its root, I believe, in the Church's failure to invite people to meaningful stewardship. This is not a criticism of our local stewardship leaders, but on the model of stewardship that we work with.

The conundrum of stewardship is that it is not about money and it is all about money. It is not about money because it is about our theology of money. What we believe about money defines how we use it not only in our personal lives but in our corporate life. Our cultural values are in direct opposition to our biblical values and we are left to sort it out (fail to sort out).

It's all about money because we do need to pay bills and run the organization. The lights, the heat, the building, the salaries are financial commitments that need to be met. That is a truth we know all too well.

What we tend to forget is that a budget is first and finally a mission document. It states our priorities and how we understand our mission.

There is no doubt in my mind that the members of KCC can fund the ministry as it exists in this moment and with considerable potential for growth. The failure of contemporary stewardship is this: If we are content to receive people's leftovers, people's leftovers are what we will get.

Inviting people to grow in the grace of giving is as much an educational process as it is a financial one. Inviting people to grow in the grace of giving is about commitment to shared mission and ministry.

IN CONCLUSION

Most of the challenges noted in the Ministry for the Future Plan have a root in questions about mission and ministry and organizational restructuring. Prayerful consideration, communal discernment and diligent study are the foundation of mission clarity.

I believe that God has more work and ministry for the Kingston Congregational Church to do. I trust that with God's spirit and guidance we will navigate the changes, align our resources and go forward in faithfulness. I thank you for your partnership and prayers, your willingness to work and pray and for the ministry that we share.

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty, Interim Senior Minister

President's Annual Message 2009

2009 is the year KCC renewed its commitment to answering the question, **"What does God expect of the Kingston Congregational Church?"** Patricia Liberty, our interim pastor, has been retained to help us prepare an effective program that will attract a settled minister to meet the specific needs of the congregation and initiate programs to expand our contribution to the communities we serve.

The Strategic Planning committee has completed the draft strategic plan that will be the unifying guide for objectives, plans, resource investments, and programs to improve the effectiveness of our ministry. Teamwork, energy, communication, and commitment are required to capitalize on the myriad opportunities that will make KCC a more relevant, positive force for service, learning, comfort and support in the future.

The Church Council appointed an ad hoc "Governance Review" committee to examine the by-laws and organizational structure to be certain that communication between boards, committees, and the congregation is clear, timely and effective. Once the "Plan for the Future of KCC" is approved, church leaders will assign responsibility, accountability, and timetables for meeting measurable objectives.

The KCC congregation is being challenged to become a more dynamic creative presence. Each of us must contribute time and talents toward this goal. We are a caring, friendly, generous Church Family.

It has been an honor and privilege for me to work with the Church Council, Boards, and Committees over the past 3 years. The dedication, initiative and hard work of these leaders are an invaluable contribution to the KCC mission. I am confident we will meet our challenges with determination, pride and distinction. **The best is yet to come.**

Marcus Ferrelli, Council President

Board of Deacons – Annual Report 2009

The Deacons have had a busy and productive year as it has been a time of goodbyes and new beginnings. In April, John announced that he would be leaving KCC after nearly seven years to become the Senior Pastor of South Church, UCC in Andover, MA. We bid shalom to John and Donna on June 28th and are grateful for the spiritual leadership they provided.

We arranged for Enrico Garzilli and Kevin Munroe to provide pastoral leadership during the months of July and August until a permanent Interim was on board. Upon request by the Deacons, Kevin was licensed for ministry to KCC on a temporary basis by the Church and Ministry Committee of the RI Conference of the UCC. We are grateful to both Enrico and Kevin for their services and inspiration during this time of transition.

The Board of Deacons also conducted a search for an Interim Minister to recommend to the Church Council as set forth in the bylaws. After reviewing candidate profiles, listening to and reading sermons, interviewing, and visiting candidates' home churches, the Deacons unanimously recommended the Rev. Patricia L. Liberty as Interim Minister to the Church Council. The Council voted to accept our recommendation and Pat Liberty began her ministry with us on September 8th. We are grateful for the experience, energy, and enthusiasm she is providing during this interim time.

We are blessed with many talented members of our congregation and thank the Rev. Bill Bartels, Tom Butcher, Paul Jacobs, Frank Lenox, Mike McMahon, and the Rev. Jack Whitehead for conducting worship services this year.

A new church directory was prepared and distributed this year under the direction of Andrea Richardson.

The Deacons continued their service to the congregation by attending to funerals; recruiting and guiding ushers, greeters, lay readers, and coffee hour hosts; interacting with the various committees of the Board; and responding as best as possible to the spiritual and worship needs of the congregation.

Members of the 2009 Board of Deacons were Beth Asher, Lori Crabtree, Jim Findlay, Dottie Leduc, Frank Lenox, Mike McMahon, Linda Mendillo, Lou Pearson, Kevin Pelton, Andrea Richardson, Nancy Ross, and Deb Shaw.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Shaw, Chair

Annual Report 2009
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. I also meet with both choirs every week. While the Senior Choir sings almost every Sunday, the junior choir usually sings on the fourth Sunday of the month and on special feasts 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 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 Jenny Collins play trumpet for us this year. For Pentecost, the choir again performed with trumpet. 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.

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 Seven Last Words of Christ at St. Francis Church in Wakefield. In November of this year, we performed selections from five of my musical plays at the Towers in Narragansett.

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

Membership Report

Members as of January 1, 2009		**552**
Additions:		
Confirmations	6	
New Members	7	
Total Additions		**13**
Losses:		
Death	11	
Inactive by request	6	
Inactive by Deacons	105	
Total Losses:		122
Members as of December 31, 2009		**443**
Baptisms	13	

Baptisms	Date
Kingston Anton Ross	January 4, 2009
William Russell Ashworth III	March 1, 2009
Riley Elizabeth Ashworth	March 1, 2009
Merryn Sinclair Foss	March 15, 2009
Benjamin Travis Coleman	March 29, 2009
Laurel Elizabeth Coleman	March 29, 2009
Jacqueline Mariella Salvadore	April 26, 2009
Natalia Raquel Salvadore	April 26, 2009
Mason Kammy Thorn	August 2, 2009
Zander Luke Winter	August 2, 2009
Gavin Stiles Urian	August 9, 2009
Connor Houston Bourque	November 22, 2009
Tyler Corliss	December 6, 2009

New Members	
Kyle Ashworth	January 25, 2009
Rev. Sharon Key	January 25, 2009
Dan Quarella	January 25, 2009
Tracy Quarella	January 25, 2009
Fredericka Bettinger	May 17, 2009
Franz U. Hayes	May 17, 2009
Michelle Talbert	May 17, 2009
Confirmands:	December 6, 2009
Abbie Allenson	
Alaina Coffey	
Tyler Corliss	
Seth Curtis	
Brandon Sticca	
Scott Washburn	

Deaths

Rev. Aaron Lee Hocutt		January 31, 2009
Cheryl Ladd		January 31, 2009
Edward Gillis	non-member	March 20, 2009
Katharine Bell		April 2, 2009
Elizabeth "Betty" Handschumacher		June 3, 2009
Suzanne Kenyon		July 16, 2009
Herbert Behrens		July 17, 2009
George Fiddes		September 1, 2009
Jacqueline Piez		September 16, 2009
Ralph Browning		October 10, 2009
John Gowell		October 26, 2009
Agatha Littlefield		December 4, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta H. Shaw
Registrar

Nominating Committee Report for 2009

The Nominating Committee began meeting in the 2nd quarter of 2009 to review the many positions that needed to be filled. At that time there were 13 positions to be filled and 18 positions that required confirmation that they would continue for their next term. The total number of 31 grew to 40 as members dropped off committees and others chose not to do a 2nd or 3rd term.

We continued to meet quarterly to review progress of finding replacements and began to narrow down possible candidates. Each meeting we prepared a 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.

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

Connie Fitzelle completed her three terms on the nominating committee and we are waiting for the Council to find a replacement.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Asher
Nominating Committee Chair

Committee Members: Brad Asher, Sue Kermes, Scott Alemany, Connie Fitzelle, Tom Holland, and Nancy Tortolani

Treasurer's Annual Message
2009

Like 2008, 2009 was a financially challenging year for KCC. Revenue was down $13,000 year over year and $19,000 under budget. Over the past two years income has decreased by $46,000, at year-end 2007, operating income was $383,000 vs. $337,000 in 2009.

Boards kept spending below 2008 levels by $13,000 and in aggregate under budget by $3,600. Over the past two years Board spending is down by $20,000, at year-end 2007 board spending was $140,000 vs. $120,000 in 2009. Staffing expenses were below 2008 levels by $16,000 and $21,000 under budget. Again, over the past two years staffing expenses are down by $9,000, at year-end 2007 staffing expenses were $225,000 vs. $214,000 in 2009. The lower staffing expense was primarily due to lower Pastoral expense for the last 6 months. Pat's base salary is about $2,500 per year lower that John's and we don't pay health insurance, about $14,000 per year.

So, the good news is with revenue of $337,000, board expenses of $120,000 and staff expenses of $214,000 we end 2009 with $ 3,000 surplus.

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 12/31/2009 assets were $112,000 and fund liabilities were $71,000 resulting in a reserve of $41,000, or looked at in a different way, it represents about 1-½ months of operating expenses.

I would like to point out two concerns; even though we had a surplus at year-end, it was primarily due to cost cutting. We are all aware that cost-cutting efforts can continue only so long before it starts to have a negative impact on the Church and its programs. Also, the Church was painted about 5 years ago at a cost of $60,000. In the not too distant future it will need to be painted again and there is only $12,000 set aside in the Painting Escrow Fund for that purpose.

For a more detailed account of the Treasurer's Message please refer to the Treasurer's Report, the footnotes and comments at the bottom of each page.

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

Submitted by,

Richard Geisler, Treasurer

Investment Committee
2009 Annual Report

During 2009 the Investment Committee met six times. On January 1, 2009 the Endowment portfolio had a market value of $823,228. During the year $9,413 in gifts and bequests were added and $60,000 was distributed for support of the Church budget, for a net outflow of $50,587. The market value of the Endowment as of Dec. 31, 2009 was $932,892 vs. $823,228 at year-end 2008. After accounting for the distribution and addition, the Endowment had a 20.1% annual rate of return. This is in line with the Vanguard Balanced index mutual fund of 20.1%. At year-end, the portfolio held a mix of nine index mutual funds and ETFs, with an approximate portfolio weighting of 76% equity, 23% bonds and 1% cash. During the year the Committee changed the 3-year averaging formula to a 7-year averaging to more fully incorporate a full business cycle and give a downward bias to the distribution. Using 5% of a rolling 7-year average, it was determined that $54,215,000 be considered to support the general operating budget ($47,238), cemetery ($4,830), and music ($2,147) in 2010.

Over the past two and one-half years, with the severe recession and bear market in all financial assets, and powerful rally off the market lows in March of this year, the portfolio value stands at approximately the same level it did at year-end 1997, $982,437 vs. $932,892 year-end 2009. Looking at it in that light can be very discouraging but over that 12-year time frame the Endowment distributed $676,000 for support of the Church. The Committee will be discussing a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to lower the payout ratio to 4% per annum from 5%. It's important to keep a long-term perspective and stay the course.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Macy, Secretary

Members: Earl Chambers, Jim Elliott, Bonnie Baker, Kathy Wyllie,
Jim Joly and Jeff Richardson, Chair Board of Trustees

ex officio members: Dick Geisler, Jim Aukerman

Board of Missions 2009

"The church doesn't have a ministry – it is a ministry!" That's how Pat Liberty, our interim minister, began her first meeting with us in September. Your Mission Board has worked hard this year to understand how best to "claim our mission," especially during the interim period at KCC.

As usual, our church gave its offerings for purposes outside the church – Blanket Sunday ($1,915) and One Great Hour of Sharing ($2,926), which will help people all over the world through Church World Service, and the Christmas Offering for local needs ($3,984). This year at Christmastime we divided it between Welcome House, the Jonnycake Center and "Neighbors in Need," a UCC offering which helps local projects all over the USA, including those our church might propose in the future.

We also have a Church Missions' Project Budget (This year $5,000, next year $3,000) which allows us to choose other needs. This year we gave $2,000 to South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, $1,000 to the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and $500 each to CANE Day Care Center and the Washington County Coalition for Children. Since the 2009 church budget was not finalized until late January, the congregation contributed very generously early in the month to our 4th annual "Mexican Dinner" for Angelina's Shelter in Chiapas, Mexico, to enable Tina and Steve Letcher to take the budgeted $1,000 to the shelter on their trip to Chiapas in January. A report on that trip is scheduled for 2010. Thank you, all!

In addition to these offerings we decided to concentrate our efforts for the year on the difficult topic of immigration. Don Anderson, head of the RI Council of Churches, spoke eloquently in a sermon and talk-back about immigration problems in RI and possible action. Following that speech and the first immigration raid of the new Administration, we urged members of the congregation to write to President Obama, asking him to stop the raids. Immigration Rights Sunday was observed during the May 3 Service. Several Board Members attended a meeting in Newport about immigration law and initiatives. We hope to show a film we saw there about ICE raids in New England at KCC in the future, along with others such as "Grand Torino" or "The Visitor," to give a balanced yet humane report of the issues concerned.

In December, four members of the BOM experienced a wonderful welcome at the Hispanic UCC Church in Pawtucket. We hope to have an all-church dinner here soon to hear the stories of some of the immigrants in their congregation. The Women's Fellowship will present a panel of several successful and very legal immigrants on March 9 at 7 p.m. Last but not least, we are very excited about a DRUMMING WORKSHOP coming up on March 14 after church with Issa Coulibaly from Africa. Issa will lead a drumming circle for all ages – no experience necessary! – and speak a bit about his own experience as an immigrant.

Several members of the church participated in the Good Friday Welcome House Walk for the Shelter and we hope that many more will participate in 2010. In September, members of the BOM and others attended the Peace Flag Celebration in Providence. We also proposed that our church call Sharon Key as a pastoral resource for a mission of peacemaking and non-violence training, but she is unable to do so as she has another job. As you see, we've been busy – and had a great time together.

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

Peace and Justice Task Force

This Task Force of the Board of Missions informs the congregation of local, state, national and international issues, especially those that the National UCC emphasizes. At the Task Force **Community Interfaith Peace Service**, held every year since the beginning of the Iraq war, representatives from over 10 Faith Groups pray together for peace in the world. We also sponsor the "Emig Lecture," a sermon and talk-back on a topic of social justice; this year Pam Steager is coming in March to talk about the "Peace Alliance," an emerging movement to support having a Peace Department in the US Cabinet. We always welcome ideas and input from the congregation.

Cindy Buxton, Jim Findlay, Kennie Geary, Tina Letcher, Terry Schimmel, Ingrid Yogaratnam

Environmental Task Force

The Environmental Task Force tried to keep environmental issues in the minds of KCC members and friends. We put periodic letters in the Spire about environmental issues, hosted an environmental movie night in January, and in October, asked Don Hermes to speak to Women's Fellowship about figuring our carbon footprints. Thank you to all who attended our events and read our letters. We welcome input from anyone in the KCC community.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Buxton and Helen Rowe-Drake

2009 Annual Report
Board of Christian Education

The Board started 2009 with the addition of three new members: Ms. Mary Cole, Ms. Rachel Marino, and Mr. Michael Salvadore, Jr. They joined members: Ms. Barbara Hart, Ms. Nancy Pelton, Ms. Lori Ann Heiner and Ms. Susan Gallagher. The Board met once a month for the year, excluding the months of July and December. The goals the Board set for the year included the following: family education events, a review of the safe church policy, and conducting CPR/First Aid training for the teachers and church community. We also added a goal of creating age and classroom specific goals for the church school.

Adult education activities for the year included topics by Jim Findlay on Ecumenism, Jeff Richardson on world religions, a discussion by Glenn Kumekawa on his experiences during WWII, and a series for moms by Cindy Dowgiallo. We also had a Lyme disease presentation given by Terri Shimmel and provided the congregation with a class for CPR/First Aid.

Junior and Senior High Fellowship activities included the highly successful mission trip to New Orleans. A confirmation class was also confirmed in 2009.

An open house for the Church School was conducted by the CE Board at the start of the fall 2009 season. In addition, the CE board conducted its first ever family game night at the church to try to encourage family connections with the entire congregation.

We reviewed our Safe Church Policy and will continue to look at issues related to the policy in the coming year. We adopted some curriculum goals for the classrooms and with the Church School Director communicated these goals to parents and teachers. The Board decided that the Church School Director, Joanne Gyorgy, will let the teachers of grades 5-8 know when to dismiss students after church. The Board also made a decision that Joanne needs to be available to teachers during church school as a resource. Thus, she will not be able to substitute for teachers as she may have done in the past.

The Board looks forward to a new year and will be setting new goals for the future at the next all boards meeting in February.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Michelle Davis, Chairman

Annual Report 2009
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 10 volunteer teachers, as well as several High School youth who assist. The Nursery School is staffed by a paid teacher, Nancy Oksman and a volunteer teacher, Tom Holland, with assistance from the Senior High students. We are still attempting to use 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. This year has been particularly challenging, and we currently need at least three teachers to allow us to have at least two teachers for each class. We are truly blessed to have the 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, and Steve Davis
Grades Three and Four – Amy Hubertus
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. New curriculum will need to be purchased for the upcoming year. The Christian Education Board together with the Christian Education Director will decide either to replace some components of the current curriculum that are worn out, or to purchase a different curriculum altogether.

The Church School hosted an open-house event on the first day of church school classes in the fall.

The Church School Children again beat their previous record by raising $1,600.00 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.

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 Jack Beliveau "backstage". Participants this year were Alex Quarella, Kayla McMahon, Jessica Elliot, Lily Trodson, Zachary Jennings, Catherine Lenox, Allison Lenox, Rachel Hiener, Hillary Gallagher, Kara Bissonnette, Tai Marino, Allison Gallagher, Clarice Jennings, 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, the Reverend Pat Liberty wonderful group of teachers, and a great bunch of kids, Church School at KCC continues to thrive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Gyorgy
Church School Director

2009 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 110 hungry members (70 adults and 40 children). They enjoyed hot pancakes, and sausages, with applesauce, fruit, and whipped cream while listening to lively Cajun music. The chocolate chip pancakes are still very popular. Allie's doughnut cakes were also quite delicious. The children had fun creating elaborate Mardi Gras masks/visors. Mary Daly did a great job planning the event.

About 89 church members enjoyed the Progressive Dinner in late April. A wonderful evening of fellowship was shared by all. Thank you to Cindy Dowgiallo for all her hard work in planning this always popular event.

About 47 adults and 31 children attended the KCC Annual Church Picnic at Kingston Park on a 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 organizing this event.

In October 27 adults and 37 children enjoyed the Fall Festival at church. There were plenty of delicious meatball sandwiches and apple crisp, and many fun activities for the kids, such as a scary touch and feel station, a "dunking" for doughnuts activity, 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 Krista Reid and Heidi Joly who planned a terrific event.

The Advent Workshop occurred on the Thanksgiving weekend. The children enjoyed making beaded 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. Jen Jensen 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 Heidi Joly to our committee this year. We regretfully said goodbye to outgoing members Karen Elliott, Amy Hubertus, and Ann Lenox.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Lockwood and Jen Jensen, Co-Chairpersons

Mary Daly, Cindy Dowgiallo, Heidi Joly, Krista Reid

Women's Fellowship 2009

As we look back on 2009 (the 129th year of Women's Fellowship), we discover that it was a year of friendships, nurturing, education, and enjoyment. We donated our time, efforts and money to projects that benefited our church, our community, and the world thus fulfilling the purposes of the Women's Fellowship of the Kingston Congregational Church, UCC.

Programs began on January 12 with Laurel Ferrelli, a Court Appointed Special Advocate lawyer. She spoke about her work with children who have been abused and neglected and were referred by the court. The March program featured Prentice Stout showing beautiful pictures, most of which he had taken for his topic "Backyard Birds." In April a delicious breakfast prepared by Herb Behrens, George Fitzelle, and Clark Bridgman started the morning for 18 women who then assembled and boxed Church Word Service kits. Many other women had purchased materials, knitted, and set up previously. (see CWS paragraph) The Kingston Fair Baked Goods Sale on May 16 under Dottie Leduc's supervision was again a successful event. June 15th found the WF in the Fireplace Room listening to Mary Rhoda, Executive Director of the South County Domestic Violence Resource Center, describe the Center's many services; she also enlightened us about both national and local statistics on violence. Following this we had a "yummy" Ice Cream Social provided by Jan Kraus and Ann Ross.

The fall began with a Pot Luck Supper and Sharing Time on September 21 followed in the next month by a presentation on Carbon Footprints by Don Hermes assisted by Jessie Schoepfer using Cindy Buxton's family footprint. In November Claudia Smith brought together 103 mothers, daughters, and friends to create 71 gingerbread houses. In its third year "Cookies by the Pound" under Jan Kraus' supervision was a big hit. Sales were extended to Saturday, December 5 besides Sunday which made many people happy. Paper white bulb planting for Christmas delivery to KCC family members was coordinated by Canna Falby. Helen Rowe-Drake oversaw a festive Christmas Dinner on December 12 with a reading of "A Child's Christmas in Wales".

In outreach, "Sunshine" led by Carolyn Barwise continued to play an active role. A total of $2300 was also 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 $200 to our KCC Senior High Fellowship including support for their Mission Trip.

Church World Service continues to be an important part of the Women's Fellowship program. This year again under the leadership of Helen Rowe-Drake we filled: 30 Baby Kits, 100 Health Kits, and 229 School Kits for a total of 359 kits. This was all done with materials and $1426 donated by our KCC Community. ($146 remains for 2010.) On the international scene we also contributed $100 to Angelina's Shelter in Mexico.

We cannot say thank you enough to all the women who led, provided refreshments, supervised, and donated to our funding and our many events. A large thank you also goes to our KCC community who so actively supports the Women's Fellowship in its activities.

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

Elected and appointed officers and chairs on June 15, 2009:
President: Delight Carpenter; Vice President: Jan Kraus
Co-Secretaries: Elizabeth McNab & Loretta Shaw; Treasurer: Canna Falby
Programs: Dottie Leduc; Publicity: Ann Ross
Sunshine: Carolyn Barwise; CWS: Helen Rowe-Drake
Mother-Daughter Luncheon: Claudia Smith; Kingston Fair Bake Sale: Dottie Leduc

Annual Report – Flower Committee 2009

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 41 and over 32 were used to decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday service.

Thirty poinsettias were ordered for the Christmas display. Plants remaining after both holiday services were distributed to shut-in members, area nursing homes and/or the women's shelter with the support of the visiting committee. The garlands and wreaths were hung the first weekend in December, and the poinsettias were displayed the 19th of December.

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. A presentation was made by Vickie Wallace to the Deacons at the February all boards meeting, with the hope that the deacons will consider some alternative plan regarding flower donations and holiday floral decorating issues. Currently, church members are requested to submit $40.00 for a flower donation to offset added delivery fees to the flower invoices. In 2009, the cost was $50.00 with delivery.

Vickie Wallace served as chairperson of the committee again for 2009. Currently, 10 members serve on the committee; reduced from 12 as flower committee responsibilities were omitted for the summer months of July and August. 2009 committee members included: Kyle Ashworth, Carla Entwistle, Nancy Tortolani, Elizabeth Asher, Sue Buntz, Karin Aukerman, Jan Torres, Michelle Little, Jane Skogley and Vickie Wallace.

Nancy Tortolani and Beth Asher will serve as co-chairs for the committee in 2010.

Submitted by

Vickie Wallace, Flower Committee Chair

The KCC Prayer Chain Update 2009

Our KCC Prayer Chain during 2009 had 228 requests from KCC members and 297 requests for prayer support from loved ones of KCC members for a total of 525 requests.

Sue Kenyon, who died in July at 103, suggested that KCC needed a prayer chain back in 1979 and was a prayer link for 30 years.

We'd love to have more prayer links. Each link agrees to pray for each need daily, wherever, whenever, and not mention the need to anyone.

If you have a PRAYER NEED or would like to be a prayer link (16 now), please contact Pastor Pat, the church office, or call:

Delight Carpenter 789-8006
Bev Larimer 783-6388
Lou Pearson 783-8975
Carol Shilling 783-5677

Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase
Report of the Cemeteries Committee

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 in 1944 the last one, 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.

2008-2009 Report - Chris Faella, caretaker of New Fernwood Cemetery, is employed to cover the routine maintenance around Old Fernwood and the Peckham Cemeteries. He has made many small improvements around this area. Scott Wallace continues to provide quality care to the Tower Hill Cemetery. Wallace Tree Service removed a large dead tree in February and has offered to remove the stump for free. Ann Ross, a member of our committee, tends to the Old Fernwood entrance.

During the past year (May 2008-April 2009), three members of this Society and the church have been and will be interred in the cemetery: Joseph Henry Geary (6-11-08), John Palmer Hatch (12-22-08), interred March 20, 2009, and Dorothy Mae Fleeger Woods (11-24-08) who will be interred on May 30, 2009.

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, and Jane Skogley

William D. Metz, Chairman

** Please note that this report was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase in May.