THE KINGSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
KINGSTON, RI 02881

ANNUAL REPORT 2003
ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2004

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

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President's Annual Report

Recently as I sat in our church filled with beautiful holiday greens, I began to reflect on 2003. Many thoughts came into my mind…a church filled with beautiful music, children enjoying the wonderful Christian Education experiences, challenging and up-lifting sermons, two very active youth groups, positive and exciting conversations, active boards and committees, friendliness, pride and dedication. To me, these elements define our church, its members and its staff.

Another important ingredient is we are a church of volunteers. Along with our Senior Pastor and the staff, over 100 members support the work and beliefs of KCC. What a special and important blend.

During 2003, the Church Council has focused on growth, both spiritually and in membership. Spiritually, we are reaching out to meet the needs of the congregation in Christian and Adult Education, expanding our youth programs and activities, inspiring music and outreaching mission efforts, locally and globally. KCC 's membership growth is evident weekly as we experience a full sanctuary.

Under the direction of the Church Council, several new committees are now in place. The Safe Church Committee is working to put together a Safe Church Manual which will ensure that all who use our Church are safe at all times. The Human Resources Committee has completed a staff handbook which includes employment information for present and future staff persons. A Personnel Committee is now in place and has met to review with our Senior Pastor, staff evaluations and to recommend yearly compensations to the Council. These committees report their thoughts and recommendations first to the Council and then at Quarterly Meetings, to the Congregation.

During the past year, our Senior High Youth Group has grown in spirit and dedication, and this Fall, a Junior High Youth Group has been started. Both groups are blessed with excellent leadership.

In August, Senior High Youth Group member Michael Smith, attended the UCC General Synod meeting in Minneapolis. In addition to the 800 conference delegates, Michael was one of 3000 visitors, both adult and youth , attending meetings and observing committees as they worked to direct the future direction of the UCC.

In closing, I wish to thank the staff, all the boards and many committee members who have worked together so well in 2003. Special thanks to the retiring Chair of Trustees, Paul Schubert, and the Nominating Committee, Martha Hartman. Their dedication has set an example for all of us. The bond between staff, volunteers, and members of KCC, is a terrific mix. We are blessed!

Sue Kermes, President, Church Council

Annual Report from the Senior Pastor

January 2004

A basketball coach told me that he can take five good players and, if they work together, they become an superstar team. Magic occurs! This is an example of *esprit de corps*, where the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts.

That's the phenomenon I witness at the Kingston Congregational Church. We are blessed with a superstar team of staff, leaders, volunteers, and attenders whose work together produces a spirit which pervades our church, our community, and our lives.

I am grateful to work with Joanne, Enrico, Deb, and John and to be a part of this magical team which dedicates itself in service to God and to you.

- **Enrico Garzilli's** deeply moving music and worship leadership inspires, guides, comforts, and strengthens.
- **Joanne Gyorgy** leads an active, creative, and joy-filled educational program for the children.
- **Deb Sullivan** runs the day-to-day operation of the church office and serves as cheerful greeter, editor, coordinator, listener, and a helping hand to all who call the church or enter our doors.
- **John Ferry** tends to our beautiful facility with care and effort.

Your elected leaders of the Church Council and the Boards are among the finest and most dedicated people to be found in service to Christ and His Church. Sue Kermes is a joy and a support, with her wise, seasoned leadership experience and her passionate care for the church and for each member. Nancy Holland (Deacons), Paul Schubert (Trustees), Amy Hubertus (Christian Education) and Lauren Munroe (Missions) have functioned together like that superstar team – working cooperatively, maintaining open and free communication, and building trust between the church leaders and members.

From there, the leadership fans out to committees, Women's Fellowship, Senior and Junior High Youth Groups, Teachers, Choirs, ushers, and the many saints who work behind the scenes and often without recognition because it is their service to God.

It doesn't take long to get the impression that the people of the Kingston Congregational Church make a difference in the world and in one another's lives – far out of proportion to our 500 members.

Vital signs

As we review the year, consider some vital signs of the church:

ATTENDANCE has been strong this year, higher than last year. Most Sundays, we have about 220 to 240 in attendance PLUS the children, teachers, and the people in the nursery. There are usually about 50 to 70 children each week, plus junior highs, confirmation class, and senior highs. Look around to see that, on most Sundays, there are few if any empty seats left.

PROGRAMS thrive and continue to expand. Adult education offers a series in the fall, winter, and spring, in addition to ongoing weekly programs. The Womens Fellowship, Family Life Committee, Senior High Youth Group, Junior High Youth Group, and Music Committee keep us fully supplied with engaging and spirit-filled activity. One member looking at the weekly bulletin said *"There's so much going on that you can't possibly do everything."*

WELCOME. *"YOU are welcome here!"* That's the slogan we use in our ads in the phone book and in our publications and we mean it. Kingston Congregational is a friendly church, a welcoming church. We are blessed to have visitors almost every week, many "shopping" for a church. KCC's warm friendliness is the most frequent comment I hear about from visitors.

CHILDREN. This is a church for children. Their happy voices echo in our Sanctuary, corridors, and classrooms. At Kingston, children are welcomed, included, and cherished. And this year, thanks in large measure to our Painting Saints Audrey Hallberg and Pat Cox, the children enjoy a newly refurbished educational wing.

YOUTH. Our Senior High Youth Group has exploded into full-blown activity, under the enthusiastic leadership of Pam Smith and Sue Delmonico. Now, this year, the Junior High Youth Group has taken off, with coordination by Sandee Andrew. Confirmation Class meets Sunday evenings and also participates in many of the Senior High activities. We read in all our publications of the activities of the youth. We hear reports of their mission trips. We see them frequently in worship as ushers, speakers, readers, and leading the time with the children. I am told frequently how it warms the heart to have so many and such active youth in our midst.

FINANCES. Pledges increased last year over the previous year. Endowment value at year-end stood at about $1 million. Deferred maintenance is minimal. And... The Kingston Congregational Church has no debt! That is a rare and desired condition for most mainline churches in the U.S.

MISSION. The Kingston Congregational Church has a sense of mission. It collects half a dozen special offerings a year to help others, it makes a substantial gift to our denomination's "Our Church's Wider Mission," and it gives thousands of dollars to more than a dozen organizations – more than a "tithe" of the church's budget.

SPIRITUAL HEALTH is strong and growing. One senses a growing spirit of cooperation, trust, and a commitment to unity among members -- major factors for a church's health and future. Even more, there appears to be a spirit of joy! One of the things that attracted me to Kingston in the first place was the stated desire of the church to "grow spiritually." I perceive a consensus that we are united in our desire to be faithful to God. What could be more important?

WORSHIP is unquestionably our highest priority. What happens on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. is our primary reason for being, when we gather to worship God. But it does not end there, for worship and service are interwoven, and after our worship, we depart to serve.

God has smiled upon the Kingston Congregational Church and blessed us with a strong, healthy year. There is one potential danger: we could get so caught up in the growth and escalating activity that we become addicted to *"what's new?"* – hungering for newer, shinier, bigger programs. As individuals and as a church, may we recall frequently that *"what's new"* is God's mercies: they are new every morning and they never come to an end:

> *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning..."* (Lamentations 3:22, 23a)

Thank you for the gifts you offer to the Kingston Congregational Church by your service, leadership, or presence.

– John Zehring

Music Director

This again has been a truly wonderful year not only for Kingston Congregational Church but for the music program as well. It remains a constant joy to work with John Zehring who leads Worship with a meaningful spirituality and a joyful tone. It is a great privilege to work with such an inspiring leader.

The adult and junior choirs have been excellent in their dedicated contribution to Worship. The repertoire of anthems for both 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 has been wonderful in her dedication in leading the young singers along with other parents who have been generous and faithful in their superb work with the junior choir. This past fall we have also introduced another choir to worship. Andrea Richardson has been excellent and very dedicated in leading this new youth group. All three choirs have provided many memorable musical moments at Worship.

The Concerts at the Church this year were truly enjoyable and inspired. Before Easter very talented young people gave a program of music after service in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone who was there decided it was so terrific that it is something that should be done every year. So it is with great pleasure that we look forward to doing it again. In May we had another concert of young people. Among the musicians who performed are William Grueb, Stephen Grueb, John Brownell, Jake Flaherty, Felicia Ricci and Ashley Dentler. This concert was extremely well attended and received. Following this, was another beautiful program with flutist, Susan Thomas and harpist Hyun Jung Choi.

As a personal note, I continued to perform and compose. I gave a concert of my music at the Church in October, entitled "An Evening of Musical Delight". Among the performers were Margaret Frazier, Brad Logan, Joanne Arnold, Roxana Tourigny, Christina Dickson, Philip Martorella and Caitlin Craig. At this Concert I gave the first public performance of my Organ Symphony. The Concert was beautifully recorded and went on sale at the Church.

In closing, I would like to thank chairs, Delight Carpenter and Margaret Bradley and the music committee for their help and guidance during the year, along with Barbara Naughton, and Martha Hartman 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

Church School

Our church school at KCC is currently comprised of eight classes that accommodate children from infants through eighth grade. There are approximately 100 children registered for Church School, and attendance is usually between 70 and 80 students per week.

There are 18 volunteer teachers, as well as several assistants from the Jr. High and High School classes. The Nursery School is staffed by a paid teacher with assistance from the Junior and Senior High students. We are still using a "Team Teaching" system, which allows the teachers considerable flexibility in scheduling. This approach has continued to work very smoothly. Our teachers continue to be a group of committed and creative individuals who expand on the basic curriculum in ways that continually amaze me.

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

The downstairs classrooms have now all been repaired. Because of the hours of hard work by Matt Alemany, Kingston Boy Scout Troop #1, Audrey Hallberg and Pat Cox, and a host of other volunteers, they now look fabulous!

Vacation Bible School, which ran from August 8 through the 13th, was a great success. Attendance was much better than expected with between 20 and 26 children each day. Even though the weather was hot and steamy, the volunteers provided food, crafts, games, and fun for the attendees. The success of last summer's effort means that we will definitely offer Vacation Bible School again next summer.

The church school continues to work more closely with the Board of Missions. We are currently working with the Peace and Justice Task Force to develop an educational program about Martin Luther King Jr.

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 grow and thrive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Gyorgy

Pastoral Relations Committee

In keeping with standard practice in most churches, shortly after John Zehring became our minister, KCC formed a Pastoral Relations Committee (described below). Members of the committee in 2003 were Bill Bartels, chair, Sue Davis, Cliff Falby, Loretta Shaw, and Steve Washburn.

While this was initially set up as a committee related to the Deacons, the PRC felt, after discussion, that since the committee serves the interest of the entire church it seemed better that it should be related to the Church Council. We recommended this to the Deacons at their November meeting at which time they approved this change. At its December meeting, the Church Council also approved, and, as we had also requested, they approved adding Paul Schubert to bring our number up to 6 for 2004.

The PRC met three times over the course of 2003. Our next meeting is scheduled for January of 2004. In our view the most important task of the committee is summarized in the first sentence of our statement of purpose, "The Pastoral Relations Committee holds in trust the relationship between congregation and pastor, pursuing the best interests of both equally." We believe that in our meetings so far we have been accomplishing this task.

Please feel free to contact any of the committee members if you have further questions or if you have input for us.

Sincerely,
Bill Bartels, chair

Deacons Annual Report

We have had a busy and productive year on the Deacon's. We have met monthly with Rev. Zehring and discussed many details concerning worship services. We supported John in offering two services of Prayers for Peace in the Spring. We also had a wonderful Confirmation Service where we confirmed our youth. The deacons held a retreat one Saturday this Fall where we designed the survey which you had the opportunity to fill out in November. The response to this survey was very good and the data is posted in the Fellowship Hall. We have continued to support the Pastor at baptisms and weddings (of which there have been many) as well as accepting new members into our congregation. We have voted to establish a Pastor's Samaritan Fund which we will be taking through a special offering on Communion Sundays. This fund will be for John to use at his discretion to help those in crisis. We are entering the Advent Season and preparing or our Christmas Eve Services which are usually some of the most attended services of the year.

As always, we are here to listen and help in any way we can. We are blessed to have such dedicated people as John and Enrico who make our worship so meaningful. We have enjoyed working together and continue to work to meet the needs of those in our community of faith.

In Peace,

Nancy Holland	Bill Bartels	Dori Gerhardt
Paulette Osterman	Mike Couturier	Jacqueline Piez
Scott Munroe	Lora Hahn-Shubert	Mark Tortolani
Steve Davis	Sandee Andrew	Tom Brillat

Music Committee

One of the highlights of 2003 was the donation to the church of a new Kawai piano by the Aukerman family. Its dedication was held on September 7th during the worship service.

The choirs, under Music Director and Organist Enrico Garzilli, continued to be a critical element of worship. The children's and adult Choirs have continued to thrive, and a youth choir began just this fall. The junior and youth choirs were rehearsed and otherwise nurtured by Kristen Couturier and Andrea Richardson, respectively.

Routine maintenance and occasional repair of the organ were kept up, such as tuning and adding surge protection in March. Other ongoing responsibilities included financial provision for substitute organists/choir directors, special service music, and sheet music for the choirs.

The Music Committee coordinated several concerts this year. Among them was an October 10th Friday night concert called, "An Evening with Enrico and Friends", dedicated to works composed by Enrico Garzilli, including the world premiere of his organ symphony. A gourmet reception followed the concert.

Two concerts emphasized the talents of young people. The April 6th Spotlight on Talent recital enabled young people of the church to perform following the church service. The May 9th Spirit of Music event featured several youth and young adults, along with Enrico Garzilli, in a concert that took place in the Sanctuary.

On June 6th the community was treated for the second year to a performance by Hyunjung Choi on harp and Susan Thomas on flute. Each piece was preceded by a delightful and informational introduction.

Compact disks of the October 10th concert were sold for the benefit of the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Bradley, Chair

Women's Fellowship

We had a wonderful year and were able to make many generous donations. We did a remarkable year with Church World Service Kits. We received an award. Much credit goes to Kennie Geary, Ruth Fiddes, Beverly O'Neil, Ellen Henry and Connie Pike for all their hard work.

We had many interesting programs and they were very well attended.

We purchased four large eight foot tables for Fellowship Hall, completed the decorating of Rev. Zehring and our office administrator's offices by purchasing a rug and drapes. We also financed the refurbishing of the handicapped bathroom.

Submitted by Pat Cox, President 2003

Flower Committee Report

Our committee organized the weekly flowers for the sanctuary and distributed them to people with special needs. We have also made a joint effort with the visiting committee to distribute the Sunday flowers To shut-ins on their list.

We decorate the sanctuary on holidays. We have continued our transition to artificial greenery. This year we purchased six wreaths for the doors. This transition cuts down greatly on our expenses.

Submitted by Judy Potter and Pat Cox, Co-chair.

Telephone Prayer Chain Report

There have been 556 requests for prayer.

248 from persons in our KCC Family

308 from friends or our KCC Family

Each person for whom we offer prayer support is asked monthly whether a corner has been turned.

Monthly requests have varied from 41 to 53 a month coming from KCC, from friends of KCC living locally, in the U.S. and abroad. Each have been given to the 21 prayer links, five are not in KCC but asked to be links having appreciated support of the prayer chain.

KCC prayer links this year include Margaret Bradley, Delight Carpenter, Nancy Chambers, Gerri Davis, Sue Davis, Dori Gerhadt, Sue Kenyon, Ann Krueger, Bev Larimer, Paulette Osterman, Lou Pearson, Gail Rudginsky, Blanche Shaw, Carol Shilling, Lucile Votta, and Urda Wood.

This prayer Ministry has been enriching both for those receiving prayer support and each of the links.

Carol Shilling - Coordinator

Board of Trustees' Annual Message

It has been a challenging and rewarding year in 2003 and it has been a joy working with such a talented and dedicated bunch of Trustees. We would like to thank all the volunteers who have participated in the very popular Blue Jean Sunday workdays: over 100 people in the Spring and more than 60 people in the Fall cleaned, vacuumed, painted and gardened to help maintain our heavily used facilities. Special thanks to those who work in and around the Church with little fanfare throughout the year—we are truly blessed for your unsung involvement! We gratefully completed renovation of the Sunday school basement classrooms and many other projects that will serve our congregation well for many years to come. We wish everyone all the best as we move into 2004!

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Schubert, Chair

Treasurer's 2003 Annual Report

The year 2003 was a healthy financial year for the Kingston Congregational Church. While the final figures will not be know for a couple more months, it appears that we will be close to breakeven. The preliminary accounting as of the middle of December shows income to be slightly under budget and expenses to be close to budget. However, we have set our sights high for the 2004 year, and there is a continuing fiscal need for supporting our facilities, programs, and staff.

The endowment started the year at about $878,000 (down 15% from the beginning of 2002). The markets took a severe beating in 2002 for the third straight year, but recovered nicely in 2003. As of the end of the year, the endowment will have regained almost all of the 2002 loss, even after paying out $45,000 in income to the 2003 budget. Assuming a $1,000,000 ending value, this represents a net increase of 14% or 19% before payouts to the operating budget. The 2004 operating budget again calls for 5% of a three-year average of the endowment's value to be applied to the budget. It is important, as always, for members to remember the church in their wills so that we can continue to build our endowment and support the church in perpetuity.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Weiderman, Treasurer

Investment Committee

During 2003 the Investment Committee met twice, May 4 and October 5. On January 1, 2003 the endowment portfolio had a market value of $878,203. During the year the pastor's $45,000 housing loan was paid back, the endowment contributed $45,000 to the annual budget and there were no new contributions to the endowment fund. The market value on Dec. 31, 2003 is estimated to be $1,077,000, for a gain of approximately 23%.

This compares favorably to the returns of the average S&P 500 index fund and the average balanced fund index, of 27% and 20% respectively. The out performance of the endowment portfolio relative to the balanced index fund can be attributed to an over weighting of equity and funds holding small and mid cap stocks. At year end the endowment portfolio held seven mutual funds with an approximate portfolio weighting of 80% equity, 15% bonds and 5% cash.

In accordance with the Investment Committee Policy Statement, using 5% of a rolling 3 year average, it was determined that $47,000 from the endowment fund be considered to support the general operating budget. In anticipation of this we have sold or are in the process of selling a portion of the holdings to fund the support.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Geisler, Chairman

Members: John Hatch, Ken Kermes, Harold Henn, Audrey Hallberg, Paul Schubert, John Ferry, Nelson Weiderman and Jim Aukerman

Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education had a wonderful year in 2003. With the help of our very active Board, many Congregational members, and our Senior Pastor, we were able to expand our existing programs and offer additional opportunities for education and fellowship to the Congregation.

The Board was also active in its support of the Safe Church Task Force, a group sponsored by the Church Council. In 2003, our Church School Director implemented background checks for teachers as part of the Safe Church program.

Church School

We started off the year on rocky (or rather very wet!) ground but recovered from the flood in remarkable shape. The basement classrooms look better than ever thanks to the heroic efforts of Audrey Hallberg, Pat Cox, Joanne Gyorgy and a crew of volunteers, who pitched in to clean, paint, hang blinds, and organize. Many of the Congregation saw the facelift first hand at our September Open House. A special thanks to the Board of Trustees for their quick action and organization of the floor repair.

Church school attendance in 2003 was as strong as it has been, with 60 – 70 children actively participating each week. Most classrooms are staffed with multiple teachers who share the curriculum throughout the year. This team-teaching approach offers needed breaks to our volunteers and a fun change for the children.

Vacation Bible School ran from August 4-8 this summer. What a turnout we had! Twenty-six children attended KCC' s "Bug Safari". Thanks to the many parents and volunteers who stayed to assist in the classrooms and kitchen.

Adult Education

On an on-going basis, there were many opportunities for adults to further their study of the Bible or share in discussions of spirituality in 2003. The Bible Study group and the Spirituality Book group continued to meet regularly. Both are always open to new members. Their meetings are posted in the Bulletin and Spire.

In the spring, John held two special studies for the Congregation. The first was a Lenten series and the second was a look at the 23rd Psalm. Both studies had excellent attendance.

In the fall, David Barwise led a study entitled "Prophetic Voices of the Old Testament". This study was also very well received. Look for additional announcements in the Bulletin and Spire for Winter and Spring offerings.

Senior High Fellowship

It would be easier to describe what the Senior Highs didn't do in 2003! This group of energetic young people, led by two indefatigable Board members, Sue Delmonico and Pam Smith, have given a tremendous amount back to KCC while exploring their own spirituality and forming lasting friendships. In 2003, Senior High's could be found assisting in the toddler room, providing childcare during quarterly meetings, supporting each other at school activities and sporting events, and serving delicious spaghetti suppers to Church members.

In 2003, the Senior High sponsored the first ever Confirmation Supper. The confirmands and their parents were invited to a pot-luck supper on Confirmation Sunday to celebrate this important milestone in their Church life. Each confirmand received a KCC Senior High t-shirt and a warm welcome to Senior High Fellowship. What a wonderful transition for these young people!

Finally, the Kingston Congregational Senior High Fellowship sponsored this year's trip to HOME in Orland, Maine. Our Senior Highs, together with young people from other area churches, volunteered their time and energy the last week of June to assist in building projects. It was a week of fun, hard work, friendship, and faith. Many of the Congregation attended the Pot Luck dinner hosted by the Senior Highs in October to hear first hand about this amazing trip. A special thanks to all the KCC chaperones and Ira Williams from the RI UCC Conference!

Junior High Fellowship

During the first half of 2003, Board members Jim Findlay and Sue Tierney provided special times for the junior highs to get together and share friendship and fun – either at bagel brunches after church or at other organized events.

In September, Sandee Andrew presented the Board with a proposal for an integrated approach to Jr. High Fellowship and Sunday School which involves mixing curriculum with participation in service and community projects and FUN! The Board whole-heartedly supported this approach and Sue Tierney volunteered to co-lead the group with Sandee.

Since September, the Junior High Fellowship has participated in a lock-in with the Peace Dale Congregational Church, made and sold ornaments to support the KCC Holiday Bazaar, and raised money to support Ronald McDonald House by making and selling candy wreathes. Most importantly, they have begun to come together as a cohesive group finding friendship and growing together in faith. Watch for the Junior Highs in 2004 – they have lots of exciting plans in the works!

Family Life

A big thank you to all the Family Life Committee members for their hard work in 2003 organizing many successful events, including the Mardi-Gras Pancake Supper, Progressive Dinner, Beach Picnic, Fall Festival, and Advent Workshop.

Looking Forward

In 2004, the Board has chosen three challenging and important goals. As a Board, we intend to focus our support on growing the Junior High Fellowship into a strong and vibrant group. We will also provide whatever support and assistance is needed to the Safe Church Task Force to ensure KCC is a safe place not only for children and educators, but for all Church members. Finally, we intend to develop and implement a children's Giving/Stewardship Program as part of the current Church School curriculum.

In closing, I would like to say a big thank you to the entire Board for the energy, enthusiasm, and thought you each bring to the Board's efforts and a special thank-you to this year's Board officers, Sue Tierney (Vice Chair) and Sue Macy (Secretary).

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hubertus, Chair

Board of Mission/Social Justice Report

This past year proved rather busy and successful for the Board of Mission and Social Justice. As the Board pledged to further strengthen its relationship with a local organization, in this case, Welcome House the Congregation loyally donated nonperishable canned goods for the past year. Thank you for putting up with the monthly themed menus for instance canned beef stew for the cold winter months to treats of candy for a certain bewitching month. The Social Justice Task Force acted diligently and swiftly for the Congregation bringing forth current event speakers. Some guest speakers we had at KCC are: Diana Burdette works for the UCC on social justice issues discussed the UCC's role on social justice issues and how one can get involved; and other speakers like Dr. Zawia and Jerry Elmer discussed what the patriot act is.

For the upcoming months ahead the Social Justice Task Force is planning a series of Sunday School projects regarding Martin Luther King. The series should prove to be a wonderful learning experience for the young members of the congregation to understand MLK as a civil rights leader and not just a man with a holiday named after him. The Board of Mission also asks the Congregation to further strengthen its support of Welcome House by participating in the meal sign up sheet that is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Kim Munroe, Chair

Christian Family Life Committee

The goal of the Family Life Committee during 2003 was to increase attendance at all of our events. For the most part, we exceeded our goals.

Over the year, we had a transition of committee members, saying goodbye to longtime Chair, Debi Jennings, and Amy Hubertus, who left us to join the Board of Christian Education. However, we joyfully welcomed Kelly Jarbeau, Ann Lenox and Becky Menard.

We started off the year with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in March, which we transformed into a Mardi Gras celebration. The Supper was attended by over ninety hungry churchgoers, almost doubling last year's attendance, who enjoyed our hot pancakes with fruit toppings, sausage, coffee and tea. The children enjoyed the addition of a craft table at the event, creating Mardi Gras hats and masks.

In March, the committee co-sponsored a Bowling Party with the Men's Fellowship. An enjoyable time was had by all attendees.

At over 125 participants, the Progressive Dinner in early May was the largest in the event's history. A wonderful evening of fellowship was shared by all. Thanks to Debi Jennings for assisting the committee and to the Shaws for a most enjoyable event.

The weather was warm and beautiful for the KCC Annual Church Picnic at the South Kingstown Town Beach in September. Approximately 60 people attended, slightly less than in past years. For next year, we will consider coordinating the event with the first day of Sunday School to allow more families to attend. Children and families participated in our sand castle contest with an award for all participants. Thank you to Marci Redinger for coordinating this event.

In October we hosted a Fall Festival at the church. We changed the event hours to include dinner and had a great turnout of almost 70 attendees. Activities included pumpkin decorating, scarecrow making, llama petting, apple pie making, leaf rubbing, friendship pin crafts and a family portrait station. There were plenty of meatballs, salad, and apple crisp for all.

The Advent Workshop on the last Sunday of November was a busy event and a real success. A new craft, metal ornament stamping, was very popular. Favorite activities from years past, including candy cane sleighs, reindeer food, cookie decorating, pine cone bird feeders and crèche painting provided hours of creativity for all. Special thanks to Debi Jennings for coordinating the crèche painting and for tirelessly molding dozens of plaster figurines for the children to paint. As always there were forms, candles and greenery for creating Advent wreaths. Thank you to Lori Ann Hiener for overseeing the workshop.

The following week Bev Stringer and her husband raised a beautiful Christmas tree. During church on Sunday the committee hosted a decorating party for the Sunday School children with cookies and cocoa. The children hung all the ornaments they made in prior weeks. Thanks to Bev for getting a tree, putting it up and taking it down and for the hundreds of cookies she baked for the party.

Men of the church assisted the committee in setting up the crèche for the Christmas Eve service. Thanks again to Bev Stringer for locating animals to populate the crèche.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy White, Chair

Faye Boudreaux-Bartels, Lori Ann Hiener, Kelly Jarbeau, Ann Lenox, Marci Redinger, Dick & Loretta Shaw and Beverly Stringer.

Senior High Report

This was our start up year and we were overwhelmed with the response from teens and the congregation.

Mission - Create an environment where teens can build relationships with other teens, contribute to the larger community, and feel free to find their own spiritual path.

We have about 20 teens with an average of 10 or more for each activity. The Confirmation Class is included in our service and fundraising projects.

Ways in which we accomplish our mission -

Building relationships with one another - key to the success of the group

- Football Games
- Watching Movies Together
- Making and Eating Meals Together
- Confirmation Dinner

Events that contribute to the larger community

- Raking Yards
- Ushering/greeters
- Mission Trip
- Pasta Dinner

Spiritual Path

- Finding Sacred Space - Workshop at Brown University by Rev. Janet Cooper-Nelson
- Christmas Pledge - Baking cookies for the congregation and discussing the true meaning of Christmas
- What Am I Feeling - Marilyn Goodman - Discussion on our feelings and each teen received their own journal
- Iron's Homestead Retreat - Rev. Ira Williams

We have had an amazing year and look forward to many more. Sue Delmonico and Pam Smith

Membership Report

Members as of January I, 2003		**461**
Additions		
Confirmation	9	
Other	33	
Inactive to active	1	
Total Additions		**43**
Losses		
Death	2	
Transfer	2	
Transfer from inactive to another church	(2)	
Members who wish to become inactive	5	
Total Losses		**9**
Members as of December 31, 2003		**495**

Baptisms 21

Marriages 6

Baptisms

	Date of Birth	Date of Baptism
Evan Richard Goodwin	5/8/02	1/5/03
Medelise Reifsteck	8/9/92	1/12/03
Nolan Reidfsteck	3/6/96	1/12/03
Carol Abigale Duffy	8/15/02	1/19/03
Alexis Olivia Duffy	8/15/02	1/19/03
Jackson Richard Reed	3/18/02	2/16/03
Cooper William Caiozzo	10/23/02	2/23/03
Kirsten McGrath	6/18/68	3/9/03
Kurt Coppage	11/8/87	3/16/03
Christopher James Lenox	5/18/96	5/25/03
Allison Elizabeth Lenox	8/10/98	5/25/03
Catherine Ann Lenox	8/10/98	5/25/03
Cassandra Jane Simpson	9/29/02	5/18/03
Emily Morgan Howe	2/26/03	6/1/03
Olivia Amy Joly	1/17/03	6/8/03
Allice Katherine Vadney	11/18/02	7/6/03
Derek Thomas Dowgiallo	5/27/03	8/24/03
James Richard Reid	2/17/03	8/31/03
Alexa Clegg	8/15/03	9/18/03
Mary Theresa McKay	8/8/03	11/9/03
Lindsey Brooks Jenson	4/3/03	11/30/03

Deaths

Carolyn M Hagenstein	inactive	2/06/03
Janet Isobel MacLennon		2/08/03
Stephen P.Johnson	n/m	2/15/03
Rhoda S. Bunty	n/m	4/02/03
Stanley E.Peterson	n/m	5/03/03
Edith R. Boothroyd		8/10/03

Transfers

Edward Lawson	n/a
Joan Lawson	n/a
Lori Lee (McKendy) Teaken	n/m
Robert Biber	
Virginia Biber	

Marriages

Mark Teaken and Lori Ann McKendry	4/12/03
Henry Edward Knoblock and Ann Louise Zarchan	5/31/03
Seth Patrick O'Hearn and Jennifer Gail Conrad	7/05/03
Bryan Joseph Manke and Tara P. Bishop	7/19/03
Sean David Fitzgerald and Erin Moira Farrell	I/22/03
Ellen Puchalski and Robert Champlin, Jr.	12/13/03

New Members

R. Bert Reid, Jr.	Carol MacKenzie	James Aukerman	Karen Aukerman
Karen Reed	James McGrath	Kristen McGrath	Pamela Faust
Andrea Richardson	Jeff Richardson	Kevin Casey	Donna Casey
Daniel Asher	Neal Buxton	Jessie Coffey	Kurt Coppage
Alexander Couturier	Matthew Fiedowicz	Grace Lee	Todd Meleney
Bess Moyer-Bell	Andy McKay	Donna McKay	Krista Reid
Robert Champlin	Ellen Puchalski	Shelley Antonio	Guy Cassaday
Maria Cassaday	Anne Coppes	Sharon Davis	Lee Hocutt
Sunny Hocutt	Jennifer Jenson	Timothy Jenson	Frank Lenox
Marie Mersereau	Mark Mersereau	Razafinjatovo Philippe	
Jan Blackwell	Laura Nelson	James Nelson	

Submitted by,
Ruth J. Fiddes, Registrar

BALLOT FOR 2004

President	**Sue Kermes**	(2) '04
Moderator	**Maureen White**	(3) '04
Clerk	Linda Mendillo	(2) '04
Treasurer	Nelson Weiderman	(2) '04
Assistant Treasurer	Wilma Cole	(2) '04
Registrar	Ruth Fiddes	(2) '04
Archivist/Historian	William Metz	'04
Council at Large	Marcia Perrolle	(2) '04
	Bill Pacheco	(*) '04
	Jim McGrath	(1) '05
	Wayne Svehlik	(1) '05

President and Moderator are one-year terms. All other church officers are two-year terms. Board and standing committee members are elected for three years (one term) and are limited to two terms (6 years). The first number indicates first or second term. The second number indicates December of the year in which term expires.
(*) indicates persons who filled mid-term vacancies. **Bold type indicates persons to be voted on**.

Board of Deacons

Scott Munroe	(1) '06	Sandra Andrew	(1) '04
Ellen Henry	(1) '06	Nancy Holland	(2) '04
Frank Lenox	(1) '06	Paulette Osterman	(1) '05
Jacquelyn Piez	(2) '06	Thomas Brillat	(1) '05
Lora Schubert	(1) '04	Steve Davis	(1) '05
Dori Gerhardt	(*) '04	William Bartels	(2) '05

Board of Trustees

Susan Hammen-Winn	(2) '06	Craig Thompson	(*) '04
Richard Shaw	(1) '06	Janice Wright	(1) '04
Sharon Davis	(1) '06	Wayne Lee	(1) '05
David Cox	(1) '04	Jim Ross	(1) '05
Nelson Weiderman-Treasurer	(2) '04	Audrey Hallberg	(2) '05

Board of Christian Education

Sue Macy	(2) '06	Ashley Dentler	(*) '04
Stephanie Henry	(1) '06	Jim Findlay	(1) '05
Marilyn Goodman	(2) '06	Amy Hubertus	(1) '05
Susan Delmonico	(1) '04	Sue Tierney	(2) '05
Pam Smith	(*) '04		

Board of Mission and Social Justice

Carolyn Barwise	(1) '06	Courtney Delmonico	(*) '04
Tina Letcher	(1) '06	Cindy Buxton	(1) '05
Mark Mercereau	(1) '06	Doris Findlay	(2) '05
Lauren Kim Munroe	(1) '04	Daniel Reifsteck	(1) '05
Michelle Davis	(*) '04		

Stewardship Committee

Mary Daly	(1) '06	Stephen Clegg	(1) '05
Tom Butcher	(1) '06	Steve White	(1) '05
Frank Osterman	(1) '04	**Marci Redinger**	(*) '04

Music Committee

Beverly Stringer	(1) '06	**Vernon Bradley**	(*) '04
James Nelson	(1) '06	Margaret Bradley	(1) '05
Elizabeth McNab	(1) '04	Kristen Couturier	(2) '05

Committee of Delegates

Rosemary Wilson	(1) '06	Cana Falby	(1) '05
Susan Brillat	(1) '06	Wilma Cole	(2) '05
Ed Carney	(2) '06	James Findlay	(2) '05
Gail Rudginsky	(1) '04	Doris Findlay	(2) '05
Michael Smith	(*) '04		

Nominating Committee

Connie Fitzelle	(1) ‘06	Jane Clayton	(2) '04
George Fitzelle	(1) '06	**Nancy Barth**	(*) '05
Ed Carney	(2) '04	Tom Holland	(2) '05

Investment Committee

John Hatch	(2) ’06	Nelson Weiderman	(1) ‘04
Ken Kermes	(2) ’06	Richard Geisler	(1) ‘05
Harold Henn	(2) ’06	Jim Aukerman	(1) ‘05
Paul Schubert	(1) ’04	Audrey Hallberg	(1) ‘05
John Ferry	(1) ’04		

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

Human Resource Committee

Ellen Henry (1) ’04 Nancy Barth (1) ’05

Audit Committee

Henry Schwarzbach (2) ’06 Clay V. Sink (1) ‘04 Bonnie Baker-Daigle (1) ‘05.

Nominating Committee Annual Report for the Year 2003

The nominees on the 2003 ballot presented by the Nominating Committee were accepted as proposed at the January 2003 Annual Meeting. All positions for officers, board and committee members were filled with the exception of one which was filled in March by vote of the council and affirmed by congregational vote at the April quarterly meeting. During 2003, we nominated three persons to fill vacated positions.

The 2004 ballot includes 35 persons nominated for election or reelection. This number includes persons who filled mid-term vacancies (indicated by an (*)), who accepted another term as allowed by the bylaws, or who filled openings which arose at year end due to normal rotation of terms. Please note on the ballot that (1) '06 means first term ending December of 2006. Persons with an (*) remain eligible for two complete terms. During the year, we also consulted with board and non-standing committee chairmen who required members to fill openings on current and newly formed non-standing committees.

We met once a month, with the exception of July (no meeting) and October, November and December when meetings were held twice per month.

We have enjoyed working together as a committee. This year I am stepping down from the committee. John Hopkinson and Susan Kehoe have completed one term and have decided not to take second terms. I want to thank all of the committee members for their support, generous assistance and joyful spirit during the past three and one-half years and wish the new members the very best as they work with all of you to fulfill their commitment to this task. We also thank all those who have served in 2003, those who have agreed to be nominated for 2004 and my husband, Karl, who has done the computer work to keep the committee functioning smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Hartman, Chairman, Jane Clayton, Ed Carney, Tom Holland, Susan Larimer Kehoe, John Hopkinson