# The Spire

## From Your Pastor

**March 2007**

Why do we neglect the simple things which we know are best for us, like drinking more water, doing more exercise, or getting more sleep? Sleep not only refreshes, but studies indicate that you may be better off sleeping than cramming for a test, a presentation, or a performance. Sleep increases your creative edge, your intellectual sharpness, your quick responses, your creativity, your recall, and it makes you feel better. Too much is not good, but few are in danger of that. The challenge is that we don't get enough, sometimes by choice or sometimes because our minds won't let us.

Psalm 121 tells how the Lord is your keeper, adding *He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep*. God does not sleep. It's reassuring to know that God stays awake tending His world, so that you can let go and sleep peacefully.

Yet some nights we cannot sleep peacefully. Our minds will not stop. For such a night, John Baillie in his classic *Diary of Private Prayer* offers this prayer:

*Give me sound and refreshing sleep.*
*Give me safety from all perils.*
*Give me in my sleep freedom from restless dreams.*
*Give me control of my thoughts, if I should lie awake.*
*Give me wisdom to remember that the night was made for sleeping,*
*and not for the harboring of anxious or fretful or shameful thoughts.*
*Give me grace, if as I lie abed I think at all, to think upon Thee.*

You spend a quarter to a third of your existence asleep, or at least trying to. God is with you in your sleep as He is in the fullness of your life.

– John Zehring

***Welcome*** *to new visitors and to old friends.* ***Welcome*** *to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, single people and children.* ***Welcome*** *to people of all colors, cultures, abilities, and sexual orientation, to young and old, to believers and questioners, and welcome to questioning believers.* ***Welcome*** *to all who have no church home, need strength, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. We joyfully and unconditionally welcome you. We hope you find peace and inspiration in our service.* ***YOU are welcome here!***

(Voted on and approved by the congregation January 28, 2007)

## SUNDAYS IN MARCH

March 4 — Second Sunday in Lent. Message: *"Was Blind but Now I See."*
Time with the Children: Joanne Gyorgy. Communion.

March 11 — Third Sunday in Lent. Message: *"Christians Favor Peace."*
Sermon Talk-back for youth only.

4 p.m. Interdenominational Peace Service, to pray for all those killed or affected by the war and to pray for peace. Children and youth especially welcome!

5 p.m. Confirmation class, to plan service.

March 18 — Fourth Sunday in Lent. CONFIRMATION SUNDAY.
Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Charles Barnes, Conference Minister of the RIUCC.
John will present each Confirmand with their Confirmation verse.

March 25 — Fifth Sunday in Lent. Message: *"Increase Your Soul's Health."*
First Sunday in Spring!

April 1 — Palm Sunday. Message: *"Feel Valued."* Communion.

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*March's Deacon of the Month is Lora Hahn-Schubert.*

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## *In Sympathy*

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to the family of James Holiman who died on January 30th. A service was held in the sanctuary on February 5th.

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## CONFIRMATION

March 11 — **Plan service**. Meaning of membership.
How to connect to the church through your "absent" years.

March 18 — **CONFIRMATION SERVICE**, join Kingston Congregational Church, UCC.
Guest: The Rev. Dr. Charles Barnes, Conference Minister of the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ.

March 25 — Confirmand Pot Luck Lunch

Thereafter: **Continue in Sr. High Youth group**

## LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES AND LUNCHEONS
## – all begin at noon –

**March 7:**
HOST: St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
PREACHER: Jennifer M. Phillips, Vicar, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

**March 14:**
HOST: Peace Dale Congregational Church
PREACHER: Kevin Munroe, Assistant to the Minister, Kingston Congregational Church

**March 28:**
HOST: Kingston Congregational Church
PREACHER: Juliet Bongfeldt, Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

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| **Palm Sunday** | April 1, 9:30 am |
| **Maundy Thursday** | April 5, Simple Supper and Service of Tennebrae and Communion, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall |
| **Good Friday** | April 6, noon. Worship Service in the Fireplace Room. Judy Scott officiating, Canna Falby pianist. |
| **Easter** | April 8, services at 9 and 11 am. |

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## ADULT EDUCATION
March 13, 20, 27
7 pm, Fireplace Room
***PEACE***

Christians stand for peace. Of course they do, except when we're inclined to kill one another over how we interpret peace and methods to achieve it. Discussion topics include: teachings of the Bible, just wars, use and abuse of power, strategies for negotiating peace, the role of our country as the world's leading superpower, the appropriateness of Christians discussing international affairs, use of deadly force in self-defense, addressing causes of conflict and violence, patriotism, and how our faith informs our attitude about war, the use of force, and attitudes about adversaries.

The class will use *"A Christian Curriculum on International Relations"* from the National Council of Churches. Advance sign-up is needed so that students may have a book to read in advance. Those who are able are asked to contribute $8 towards the cost of the book.

Participants may wish also to read Senator George Mitchell's *Making Peace: The behind-the-scenes story of the negotiations that culminated in the signing of the Northern Ireland Peace Accord*.

Instructor: John Zehring.

**How to sign up:**

a. tell John
b. email John at j_zehring@yahoo.com
c. leave a phone message 783-5330.
c. leave John a note in the offering plate

## We welcome new members who joined the church on January 28, 2007:

**Clark Bridgman** is a retired engineer who moved to RI in August 2006 from Red Hook, Hudson River Valley, NY. He is retired from Grumman Aerospace as a Design Engineer and lives in Wakefield with his wife, new member Joyce Bridgman.

**Joyce Bridgman** moved from Connecticut to California, Ohio, Florida, New York, Tennessee, New Mexico. She lives in Wakefield with her husband, new member Clark Bridgman. She has 3 adult children and 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Jane Buxton** has worked as landscape architect, open-space planner, and elementary school teacher. She grew up in Old Greenwich, Connecticut and moved to Wakefield in September 2006 from San Francisco with her husband, Allan and children Eleanor, Christopher, and Lena.

**Nathaniel "Britt" Foss** is a financial planner and avid surfer who lives in Narragansett

**Frank Karpowicz** is an architect, husband of new member Karen McCurdy, and father of twins Kristin and Jacqueline who lives in Wakefield.

**Karen McCurdy** is a Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at URI. She is the mother of twins Kristin and Jacqueline and wife of new member Frank Karpowicz and lives in Wakefield.

**Meredith Lynn MacDonald** is a massage therapist who lives in Narragansett.

**Patti Steere is e**mployed by Yankee Travel. She is the wife of new member Brian Steere and has two sons, Connor and Devin. She was born and raised in RI and lives in Wakefield.

**Brian Steere** is employed by Ryder Transportation and is the husband of new member Patti Steere and father of Connor and Devin.

## New member February 18, 2007:

**Paul Jacobs** is a laser physicist with a Ph.D. from Princeton. He was born in New York City, lived in California for 32 years, and in Saunderstown for the past 9 years. He is an avid sailor, "lover of life, and the Lord." He was a summer preacher at KCC two years ago.

# One Great Hour of Sharing

Dear Friends,

There is a local folk musician named Leroy White who I've admired since I met him 22 years ago. Leroy's music is joyful, inspiring, personal, and it conveys a powerful message: let go, live in the present, help one another. For example, part of his song, "Inside of Me", goes:

*Now I know you know this part*
*so just sing along in your heart:*
*We are the active parts.*
*We're the only hands God's got.*
*We choose to do or not inside.*

The command to love one's neighbor, born in the Mosaic law, is the one Jesus names as second only to loving God. In Luke 10:2-37, Jesus broadens the understanding of "neighbor." But even the most compassionate among us can easily feel overwhelmed by the level of need in the world and the perceived smallness of our contribution.

The message of loving one's neighbor is not intended to inspire guilt, but to encourage community - to reflect God's love in the world. When we seek to love as God loves, we create a better world not just for others, but for ourselves as well. And while we obviously cannot personally meet every need in the world, we can respond to those of which we become aware, joining our gifts with many others to empower those who are present in person with people in need. Through One Great Hour of Sharing we participate in Jesus' call to be God's heart and hands in a hurting world. By giving, you will join others in:

1. rebuilding communities ravaged by natural disasters
2. creating sustainable sources of food and water for rural villages
3. providing micro-credit so women can start poverty-escaping businesses
4. teaching trades and job skills to people maimed by landmines
5. offering children a chance to survive past the age of 5 and attend school
6. and so much more.

By participating in One Great Hour of Sharing on April 1, 2007, we join together to make a world of difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Board of Missions and Social Justice

# Board of Missions

The Board of Missions/Social Justice is very pleased to tell you our Christmas Offering this year raised $6,788, which is the largest amount we can ever remember for a Christmas Offering! Thank you all for your generosity.

# "Troubled Waters" for KCC Movie Night

The showing of the Environmental movie "An Inconvenient Truth" was well attended and well worth seeing (as well as entertaining). The Environmental Task Force would like to follow this up with the UCC movie on the world water crisis "Troubled Waters". This movie is also well worth your time and very informative. We will show it at church, on Friday March 23rd at 7PM.... popcorn included. For those of you who missed "An Inconvenient Truth" it is available to borrow from the church office. We hope to see you Friday March 23rd!

# Spire by E-mail

If you would like to receive your Spire by E-mail please call the church office. It will save the church money as well as saving paper. A number of us have been doing so for some time and it is working out very well. If you use e-mail regularly, The Environmental Task Force encourages you to give it a try!

# South Providence Neighborhood Ministries
# 5th Annual Benefit Concert
## Sunday, March 18th
## 4:00 pm
### Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
### 565 Pontiac Ave., Cranston, RI

Join us for this musical extravaganza!
Listen to wonderful performances
while supporting this vital organization.

Please bring canned goods for the SPNM pantry.

Free will offering to benefit S.P.N.M.
Refreshments will follow the concert.

If you would like to be a sponsor of this event,
or for additional information, call 461-7509.

***The Kingston Congregational Church Choir will be participating in this event.***

*The Kingston Congregational Music Series*
*Presents*

# *The Three Tenors of Rhode Island*

*in concert*

*Saturday, March 17, 2007*
*at 8 PM*
*Kingston Congregational Church*
*Kingston, RI*
*Bradford Logan Ronald Rathier, Noel Velasco*
*And Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, pianist*

**The Three Tenors of Rhode Island** came together through the inspiration of Samuel Chester, giving their first concert to benefit the Friends of the Music Mansion in 1997. They were warmly received when they performed at *Music on the Hill* in East Greenwich. Standing ovations have been the norm in all of their performances. The expert accompaniment provided by pianist and mezzo-soprano Gigi Mitchell-Velasco adds cohesiveness as well as a certain whimsy.

Popular operatic tunes, standard classics and golden favorites set in unique arrangements by Noel Espiritu Velasco make for a rewarding and exciting concert experience you will not soon forget.

Admission $15.00 Information 783-5330

## *A Musical Note*

**Bradford Logan,** a member of The "Three Tenors of Rhode Island", has become noted for singing the works of Enrico Garzilli, having created the leading roles in world premieres of his musicals *Rage of the Heart* and *Michelangelo.* He has sung at KCC. He occasionally sang with his friends at the True Brew Café in Wakefield, RI.

# Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 12th at 7:00 pm. Our speaker will be Carol Shilling who will discuss the 23rd Psalm. All ladies are welcome to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

(Picture)

# Heifer Project

Don't forget that your loose change can add up to a substantial donation to the Heifer Project! The Church School children will be collecting "spare change" for Heifer Project International beginning on March 4th. They will collect pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and then dollars on each successive Sunday until March 25th. Last year we had enough for a heifer, a llama, and chickens! With your help we will do even better this year.

# Senior High News

March 18th after church - Senior High lunch.

April 1st - Junior and Senior High game night at church, 5pm

Senior High BBQ Sunday, May 20th.

We discovered Table Topics Family edition - They are cards with questions on them to start conversations. Here are a few that we thought you might enjoy talking about over a meal in March.

**Which TV show would you pick to live inside for a week?**

**What would you do for fun if you had to give up TV and electronic games?**

**What's the ultimate ice cream sundae?**

**Would you choose to be the worst player on a winning team or the best player on a losing team?**

**What one goal do you hope to accomplish this year?**

# Church Women United

The South County Church Women United will celebrate the annual World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 2, 2007 at 1:00 pm. This celebration will be held at Christ United Methodist Church, 2291 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI. This year's celebration was written by the women of Paraguay and is entitled "United Under God's Tent." All are invited to attend. For more information, please call Diane Miller at 792-8965.

# KCC Prayer Chain

During the past few years we have had 225 requests for prayer from KCC members and 348 requests for prayer support from loved ones of KCC members totaling 573 requests for God's loving support during this past year to which our prayer links have responded daily in our various homes or wherever we are.

Lucile Votta who died recently has long been one of our prayer links. We would welcome all who would be interested in furthering this important ministry as a link. Please contact any of our contact persons – Delight Carpenter, Bev Larimer, Lou Pearson, or Carol Shilling. Each link agrees to pray daily for each and to honor confidentiality of each request.

Back in 1979 Sue Kenyon suggested the idea of a prayer chain for our church similar to the one she had known in New Jersey. Sue, who is now 100 years old, is still one of our prayer links.

# Evelyne Bell Henderson

Evie, as she is known, was born in Nebraska, and at the age of three moved to the small town of Shenandoah, Iowa. She grew up there with her brother, Hugh. Evie attended schools in Shenandoah with the same group of twelve friends (she is the only one still living of that group). She attended Iowa State College where she met Bancroft (always called Buzz) Henderson from Montclair, New Jersey. He was a senior, always interested in animals and earned his degree in Agricultural Studies. Evie left college and in 1941 married Buzz in Iowa, a few days before Pearl Harbor. They were on the way to New Jersey where Buzz had a job working with his brother-in-law who owned a dairy farm. Their first son, Bancroft (Skip), was born during this time in New Jersey.

They moved to Middlebury, Connecticut where Evie's husband was manager of a dairy farm. They became closely attached to the owners of the farm. It was here that their second son, Roderick, was born. Evie enjoyed life in Middlebury, made many friends, and joined the Junior League. When the owners of the farm sold the dairy, another move in 1946 took them to Rhode Island State College where Buzz was on the faculty. They lived at Fort Kearney where many faculty and students lived after the war. It was here that Evie met many who were to become her long term friends. Evie and her husband made some other moves, living in the Reynolds Tavern in the village belonging to Mr. John Eldred, and then on to Rutger's University. Later they purchased a 26 acre farm on South Road next to Potter Woods in Kingston. Many of us remember the farm and the sheep and the horses. They lived there until 1966 when they divorced. Evie had worked as a secretary in the Department of Physical Education while raising her sons. Both sons earned degrees at the University of Rhode Island. Rod earned his in Pharmacy and Skip in Natural Resources. Evie became the Assistant Conference Coordinator working with Col. Peckham until he left. From then on she became Coordinator for a total of fifteen years making her total employment with the University over thrity-seven years.

Evie has been very active for years, serving in many organizations in the position of President, Vice President, and serving on boards. These are some of the organizations she has belonged to: a founding member of the Courthouse Center for the Arts, the Women's Club of South County, the University Club at URI, the Willow Dell Beach Club's Board of Directors, the Triangle Club, the DAR, the South County Hospital as a volunteer, as a fifty year member of PEO, and while her sons were little, she taught Sunday School at the Kingston Congregational Church. She earned several awards, among them: the "Decade of Dedication" award from the Courthouse Center for the Arts, was proposed by the South County Women's Club for the recipient of RIGFWC "Women of the Year" award, and was honored as a "Member of Distinction" by the University Club.

She has traveled extensively to Spain, England, France, Italy, Ireland and took a cruise on the Black Sea in the Mediterranean. Throughout talking with Evie it became apparent that her friends as well as family are very important to her. Her son, Skip and family live in North Carolina and Rod and his family in Warwick. Evie has five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Submitted by Pat Weeden