The Spire

From Your Pastor

May 2009

Jesus then said,
"I will be with you a little while longer,
and then I am going…" (John 7:33a)

I will be with you a little while longer, and then I am going to my next Pastorate at the South Church in Andover, Massachusetts. It has not escaped my attention that when a Pastor leaves, there is the potential for some members to fade away. There are members, I have been told, who are here because of me. While that is personally flattering, it is not the right reason to be here. More than ever, you are needed here to help undergird the church and carry it forward into a healthy future.

Every time the word *church* is used in the Bible, underneath it is the word *ekklesia*. *Ekklesia* is an ancient word. Before the Bible, it meant simply any gathering or assembly of people. In the New Testament, it always came to mean the gathering of God's people. They were the *ekklesia* when they gathered to worship, and they were the *ekklesia* when they scattered to serve.

The church is not the building, the bylaws, the history, or the organization. The church is the people. There are right reasons and wrong reasons to come to church. The right reason is to come to worship, to gather with others who also desire to know God better and to love God more. Come because you are His. Come that God may be glorified. Come to be spiritually renewed. Come to be the Community of Faith.

Transitions can feel like a time of floundering, confusion, and uncertainty. That describes perfectly the mood following Jesus' resurrection. He was gone and his followers fizzled and faded away. It was not until Pentecost when the Holy Spirit blew into their lives that they were energized to rise up and go forward to start the Christian Church. If this congregation embraces the leading of the Holy Spirit, it too will rise up and be energized. That is the #1 key to the next phase of your life together.

I will be with you a little while longer and will be working with the church leaders and the RI Conference to prepare for a smooth, successful transition. You will honor me if you hang in there and work together to continue building the faithful *ekklesia* that the Kingston Congregational Church has become.

– 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)

Would you like to join the Kingston Congregational Church?

A meeting will be held **May 10** following the worship service for those wishing to consider membership in the Church. Please enjoy some brief refreshments at Coffee Hour and then come to the Fireplace Room (directions available at The Welcome Table in Fellowship Hall) to meet with John Zehring and a member of the Board of Deacons. There may not be another opportunity like this for a while because of the church's transition, so this would be the day to consider membership if you are interested.

SUNDAYS IN MAY

May 3	Message: *Do you get jealous of God's gifts to another?* Communion. Blue Jean Sunday.
May 10	Message: *If your dreams go up in smoke, build new dreams*. Mothers' Day. New members class, following worship.
May 17	Message: *God's commandments are not burdensome*. Reception of New Members. Mission Trip Report after worship.
May 24	Message: *A time between trapezes*. Ascension Sunday. Memorial Day Weekend.
May 31	PENTECOST: Everyone wear RED! Message: *The Trinity*. No verbal announcements today.

May's Deacon of the Month is Jim Findlay.

Picture Directory

We are pleased to announce that we will be producing a new pictorial directory of our church families. A directory is a very valuable tool that helps everyone to place names with faces and enhances a sense of fellowship.

We have invited Lifetouch Church Directories to produce a Church Family Album™ for us. They produce high-quality color portraits, a professionally printed directory and provide each participating family with a complimentary portrait and a FREE Church Family Album.

Your family will be photographed using their exclusive state-of-the-art Digital Imaging Technology. What this means to you is you only have to visit the church once! Allow approximately 30-45 minutes for a variety of poses to be taken and reviewed instantly. This also allows time for you to make any portrait purchase that you may wish to make. You may purchase portraits using a check, Visa, Mastercard, Discover or Amex. There will be a nominal shipping and handling charge for mailing portraits directly to your home.

All we need to make our directory a success is you! Whether you are single, a couple, or a family with children, please help by having your sitting for the directory. Sign up at the Harvest Table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays starting May 3rd. There will be a New Directory Committee member at the table each Sunday to assist people. Photos will be taken from Tuesday, June 2nd through Saturday, June 6th. Submitted photos are permitted for college students, military personnel and homebound members unable to be photographed at the church.

Thank you for your support,
Andrea Richardson for the Board of Deacons

South County Gardens Tour
For the Benefit of the Kingston Congregational Church
Saturday, June 20, 10:00 – 4:00

Rain or Shine

Tickets are $15 prior to June 20, $20 on the day of the tour.
Box lunches will be available by reservation at church.
Tickets available at KCC, The Farmer's Daughter or Blue Moon

The tour will be of ten gardens located in Exeter, Kingston, Wakefield, and Narragansett.

Roses, clematis, perennials, Japanese gardens, pergolas, garden statuary, etc.

Thank you.

Many thanks to everyone who called and who sent beautiful cards to me after the death of my mother, Andrena O'Hagan in her 101st year.

Carolyn Barwise

Contemplative Prayer Program

Against the backdrop of our complex and fast-paced culture, a period of personal, heightened uneasiness due to change and uncertainly, boredom and despair, fractured and fragmented living as well as our daily schedule in which we are bombarded by stimuli and noise, the practice of the discipline of contemplative prayer is like a deep breath that restores body and soul. Contemplative prayer is the silence of adoring love for the mystery of God. Wonder. Possibility. Openness. Restoration. This new program is open to persons of all ages: members and friends of the congregation as well as the general public. There is no cost. There will be three, similar sessions each week. A person may participate as many times as she/he may wish or not at all on a given week. Each session will be an hour, or less, in length. If interested, contact the church office or e-mail Dr. Malcolm Mac Kenzie at thepipersglen@cox.net.

Times: Sunday: 4:30-5:30pm
Monday: 7-8:00pm
Wednesday: Noon – 1pm

Dates:
April 19, 20 and 22 – Promise & Prayer & Preparation
April 26, 27 and 29 – Contemplative Prayer & Breathing
May 3, 4 and 6 – Great Music: Halleluia Chorus
May 10, 11 and 13 – Great Music: Jesu, Joy & Anvil Chorus
May 17, 18 and 20 – Great Music: Evening Prayer & Bridal Chorus
May 24, 25 and 27 – Great Music: Blue Danube & Humming Chorus [Mem. Day]
May 31, June 1 and 3 – Great Music: Pilgrim's Chorus & Battle Hymn
June 7, 8 and 10 – A (re) new (ed) experience of God + future planning

Place: The Sanctuary of the Kingston Congregational Church

Did you know?

Did you know that the Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase built our church in 1820? It was only in 1960 that the building was sold to the KCC. The Society, as in many New England communities, was the corporation which owned the land and meeting house used for worship by the Church and held invested funds. Now the Society continues to own the Old Fernwood and Tower Hill Cemeteries. The 190th annual meeting of the Society will be held this Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Fireplace Room before the Board of Trustees' meeting. By established policy, all KCC members are also members of the Society.

Library Note

I am looking for copies of the iconic book written by Dr. Metz in 1995. It is entitled "The History of Kingston Congregational Church, 1695 to 1995." If you have a copy of this book that you would like to donate to the library, please call me at 782-3793.

Thank you,
Tracy Heffron

Adult Education

Calling all Moms whatever stage you are at.
You may come to one, two or all of the classes.

May 11, 18, 25

Monday evenings, 7pm in the Fireplace Room

Topic: Moms and Faith

Session 1: A panel discussion with Moms who have raised their children while members of KCC.

Session 2: What to do and say when your child asks questions about GOD?

Session 3: Disciplining as a Christian Parent and Helping your child deal with Bullying and other questions parents have.

Instructor: Cindy Shaw- Dowgiallo has been attending KCC since she was five years old and became a member in 1983. She attends church with her husband Alex, and two sons. Cindy has taught preschool, been the nursery coordinator, the co-chair of the Board of Christian Education and is currently on the Family Life Committee where she organizes the Progressive Supper. Cindy has a Bachelors degree from URI in Early childhood education and has taught preschool for 15 years. She currently teaches the three year old class at Stepping Stones Preschool and teaches classes at the Neighborhood Guild. In her "spare" time, she enjoys scrapbooking.

Jonnycake Center Baby Shower

Due to a recent Consumer Protection Law no organization may sell OR GIVE AWAY any USED clothing, toys, books, furniture or other items for children under 12 years of age. This means no more consignment stores for children and no used items from the Jonnycake Center, the Salvation Army... I don't know how I would have managed when my children were small. To try to continue helping families, the Jonnycake Center is holding a "baby shower" for its clients on Mothers' Day weekend. They will be collecting items on Saturday, May 9th from 10AM-3PM. They are requesting the following NEW items: baby shampoo, baby wash, baby powder, receiving blankets, bottles, toys, baby food/formula, diapers/wipes, baby lotions, pacifiers, blankets, clothes, books. I'm sure any other NEW item you want to bring would be appreciated. If you can't make the event, the "baby" is registered at Wal-Mart. The baby's name is "Jonnycake Center". (I'm sure they would accept items at any time in the future as well). Thank you.

Sincerely,
Cindy Buxton

S. P. N. M. Annual Meeting

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries invites you to attend the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 5th at 6 pm at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Ave., Cranston. The dinner will feature dishes brought by each of us. Anyone who has volunteered in any way is eligible to vote during the election. Some KingCong members will be on the slate of officers. Speakers will be Yvette Kenner, Executive Director and Amy Thomas, Youth Coordinator of Louie's Place. Call the Findlays at 783-2254 or Mendillos at 789-0937 for transportation.

Food collected by our church members during the Feinstein Match numbered more than 300 by April 15th. The Match continued until April 30th. MANY, MANY THANKS to all of you who helped make this campaign a success.

South County Church Women United's May Friendship Day

On Friday, May 1, 2009 at 11:30 AM SCCWU will present their 2009 May Friendship Day program at Christ United Methodist Church. "Building on Our Stories" is an interactive worship celebration of remarkable CWU experiences in the past and present. The title was inspired by Joshua 4:1-9, the story of the people of Israel crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Women from our area churches will gather together for this program and a salad potluck. Cindy Dowgiallo will be honored as a Young Church Woman. Please bring your favorite salad for 6-8 people. Canna Falby, Delight Carpenter, and Elizabeth McNab are coordinators of this particular program.

Kingston Congregational Church Holiday Bazaar!
November 14 & 15, 2009
Fundraising Event with all proceeds to KCC

The largest event on our church calendar to raise money for our general funding takes place in November of this year! KCC will host a Holiday Bazaar offering items for sale and auction. The event will last two days reaching out to everyone in our church and those in the surrounding communities. We need items to sell and here are a few ideas of things you could donate:

Antiques, toys, vacation rentals, sporting equipment, jewelry, lawn tools, furniture, computers, household appliances, tools, lamps, china, artwork, quilts, clocks, books, ceramics, ornaments, candleholders, cameras etc… Clothing, footwear and accessories will only be accepted as brand new.

We will begin accepting all donations! To arrange a special pick-up of an item too large to carry, please allow at least two weeks for our KCC preferred carrier service to pick-up at your location.

This event will be advertised free in all local newspapers in the community section the weeks before the event. We will also get advertising free in the South County Living Magazine in their calendar of fall events section. To assure exposure in our immediate region, the South County Independent Newspaper will serve as our primary resource. We need sponsors for advertisements! The following is a list of ads you could donate to:

One Inch Column $10.00
1/16th page $80.00
1/8th page $160.00
1/4 page $320.00
1/2 page $640.00
Full page $1,280.00

Please feel free to call me with any questions: Mark Tortolani – 401-539-7417.

Norma Hench Hagist

Norma and her three brothers grew up outside of Philadelphia in a rural area. Her father died when she was young and the family had a difficult time during the Depression. Her three brothers served during World War II and Norma hoped to attend college. Fortunately, an aunt paid for her tuition to attend Westminster College in Pennsylvania. Westminster College had a strong religious emphasis. Norma took secretarial courses there for two years becoming very interested in mission work. Due to this interest she did mission work in Khartoum in the Sudan and in Egypt during the next two years, 1947 and 1948. This involved secretarial work and teaching. Norma returned home in 1948.

She married Warren Hagist in 1949. Warren had been a high school classmate. They moved to Cambridge, MA while Warren worked on his graduate degree at Harvard. After he completed his degree he was offered a job at the University of Rhode Island in the College of Engineering. He took the job planning to stay for one year but the stay lengthened to over 40 years. During that time Norma did temporary secretarial work at the University. Warren and Norma had five children. Their little girl died when she was only two and one son died in an accident.

They bought a farm with a lot of land on Slocum Road. It included a wonderful old house dating back to the early 1800's. The house kept them busy since it needed a lot of work. They still live there. One of their sons lives next door. All of their children are musical and have learned to play a musical instrument. It is fortunate that Norma and Warren have a large barn for them to practice without disturbing neighbors. Today they have seven grandchildren and all live nearby.

Norma has been involved in an incredible number of activities, among them the South County Players and today she is President of the oldest Antique Car Club in the United States. She has been President of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society and Warren has been active at the South County Museum. Warren has repaired many old clocks and melodeons for the Museum. Both of them are interested in history. Norma took flying lessons which she found difficult but earned her flying license in 1981. She said flying opened up a whole new world for her. Norma and a friend took many cross country trips viewing much of the country. They entered six of the Powder Puff Derby races. She told me of planning their routes using huge aeronautical charts spread out on the floor of the Church House. That must have been an interesting new use for the Church House!

She says these trips changed her life and inspired her to travel with Warren. They took two or three trips a year to see places Norma wanted to see before she dies. They made 55 trips to countries fulfilling this dream. They have visited the British Isles, Europe, Eastern Europe, and seven trips to Hawaii! Some of this travel was also due to Warren's three sabbaticals. The first one was to Colorado where Norma wrote a weekly column from an outsider's viewpoint in a local paper. The second was to Norway, a country they grew to love, and the third to Scotland.

Somehow, during all this activity raising children and working on a house, Norma managed to earn a Bachelor's degree in Business at URI. Later she completed a Master's degree in Sociology. For the next ten years she taught Sociology at CCRI at the Warwick and Lincoln campuses as well as other locations.

Today she and Warren have cut back on travel after Warren's severe bout with Lyme disease. The problem with ticks has ended Norma's favorite walks through their land. Now they attend sessions of Elder Hostel within driving distances. Norma and Warren joined our church in 1952. Norma's church activities have included being the Chair of Women's Fellowship, Church Clerk and Registrar, Sunday school teacher, and singing in the church choir. She and Warren will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary June 30th!

Submitted by Pat Weeden
May 2009