The Spire

From Your Pastor

November 2009

Dear Friends in Christ:

As these early days of interim time unfold I am grateful for your willingness to share information and stories, joys and concerns. It is helpful to me in getting a wider picture of KCC and the work that is ours to do during interim time.

From time to time I will use this forum to talk about topics that I hope will generate questions and conversation. This month I invite you to think about what it means to be Congregational. So, in no particular order, here are my thoughts about what it means to be congregational

- We commit ourselves to a shared mission and focus all our resources on fulfilling that mission.
- We are interdependent not independent.
- We live in covenant relationship with one another to fulfill our mission.
- We are in a sacred partnership. Each person has a role and respects the roles of others.
- We recognize that each member has a different role and all roles are important.
- We allow each one to perform their role and expect them to act with faithfulness and integrity.
- We are transparent with one another.

Interim Time is, in part, about realigning energy and resources for mission. That means we will be looking at every area of the church's life and asking questions, LOTS of questions. And we will discover the answers to those questions TOGETHER.

As an intentional interim, my hope is that we will seek God's guidance for the present and the future, and grow as a community of faith centered around a shared sense of call as disciples of Jesus Christ.

I am in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, others by appointment; I welcome the opportunity to listen to your thoughts as we share this important time in the life of Kingston Congregational Church.

Grace and Peace
Rev. Patricia L. Liberty
Interim Senior Minister

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)

November's Deacon of the Month is Nancy Ross.

In Sympathy

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to the family of Ralph Browning who died on October 10th. A service will be held in the sanctuary on November 7th at 3:00 pm.

Consecrating Stewards Program
November Events

- Witnessing Steward #2 — Sunday 11/01/09
- Guest Steward Sermon Paul Jacobs — Sunday 11/08/09
- Witnessing Steward #3 — Sunday 11/15/09
- Consecrating Sunday Sermon/Celebration Rev. Patricia L. Liberty — Sunday 11/22/09

"From Jesus' fullness we have all received grace upon grace."

October 2009

Dear Friends,

It is my honor and responsibility to serve as the 2009 Kingston Congregational Church Stewardship Committee chairman. I know not why I was selected, but it has become evident to me over the past year that stewardship is vital to the well being of our church. Clearly, financial resources must pay salaries, heat and maintain the KCC buildings, provide for the music program, Christian education, and assure that the church can also minister to those less fortunate than we who have been abundantly blessed.

When I moved to Rhode Island in 1998, I went "church shopping". After attending services at other churches I "stumbled upon" KCC while driving on Route 138. The white steeple of this venerable building first caught my attention. Then, I heard Enrico's wonderful music program, which caused me to return. Next, I was riveted by a sermon by former pastor John Zehring. I became a member of the church four years ago, was requested to do a three part series on The Apostle Paul for the KCC Christian education program, and have also delivered two lay sermons. I have also grown to know many wonderful members of the congregation. Simply put, KCC has greatly enriched my life.

In return, I feel I should give something back. I also must confess that when I joined KCC I had absolutely no idea what most people pledged. Initially guided solely by some uncertain internal compass, I pledged an amount that "seemed about right". But was it? I had no information on which to base my pledge. Evidently, I was not alone, since from informal conversations I gather that many of you are also unsure just what constitutes a reasonable stewardship pledge. Obviously this depends on many factors. Some people have lost their jobs in the recession and are barely able to meet basic living expenses. Others are retired and living on fixed incomes. Some have had major health issues with concurrent medical expenses. Nonetheless, I thought that many of you might like to know just six facts relative to KCC pledging last year:

1. 75% of all pledges equaled or exceeded $10 per week
2. 54 % equaled or exceeded $20 per week.
3. 31 % exceeded $30 per week.
4. 14 % exceeded $50 per week
5. 8 % exceeded $60 per week.
6. 1% exceeded $100 per week.

Do you want to assure that KCC will thrive and grow so that it will be here for future generations? Ask yourself "*what other organization helps to nurture my spirit, my family, and my life as much as my church*". It took me time, but I finally realized that few other aspects of my life provide as much to me as KCC. Once I realized that simple fact, stewardship, which as a longtime sailor I regard as "keeping the church afloat" suddenly came into focus. Once this happens for you, and you are grateful for the times in your life that the Grace of the Lord has touched you, it will become just that much easier for you to help KCC not only meet its basic needs, but to THRIVE.

Dr. Paul F. Jacobs

Fundraiser in November

Saturday & Sunday, November 14th &15th

White Elephant Sale

Donations are now being accepted!!!

Kingston Congregational Church is opening its doors to everyone in our church and the public for a **TWO DAY** fundraising event. You are encouraged to attend and invite your family, friends and co-workers!

Your gifts and donated items are needed to make this fundraiser a success. Here are some ideas of things you may consider offering to the sale:

Lawn Care Products, Tools, Power Equipment, Jewelry, Artwork, China, Children's Toys, Bicycles, Books, Computers, Electronics, Furniture, Tables, Desks, Lamps, Baskets, Flower Pots, Christmas Ornaments, Boats, Carpets, Picture Frames, Sporting Goods, Exercise Equipment, Camping Equipment, Hunting Products, Office Equipment, Cameras, Televisions, CD's, Cell Phones, Games, Antiques etc…

There will also be a Silent Auction for selected services and items being donated.

Anyone needing assistance getting your items into the church or to the church the following options are available. Call for a pick-up. (539-7417)

*Please note that "only" hand-made clothing items and those that are Brand New "never been worn" will be sold.

I NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP RUN THE EVENT!
CONTACT: MARK TORTOLANI (401-539-7417)

Women's Fellowship Mother Daughter Gingerbread House Decoration

All women of the church are welcome.
Saturday, November 21, 2009
11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Bring your lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided.
Reservations are required.

Please call Claudia Smith at 401-788-8141.
Volunteers needed for clean-up.

KCC Women's Fellowship
Christmas Cookie and Fudge Sale

Sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall on the wall next to the bell.

All church bakers please sign up to bake cookies or make fudge for the sale. I am asking each baker to supply at least 4 dozen beautiful cookies or pieces of fudge for the sale. This way we will have enough of each variety of cookies and/or fudge to sell to our customers. Last year we had 30 varieties of Christmas cookies baked by 30 bakers adding up to over 60 pounds of cookies! This year I am hoping to increase that number to 40 or more bakers, as we will be opening the sale to the public. On the sign up sheet PRINT your name, phone number and address. If you know what type of cookie or fudge you would like to make, add that as well. I do not mind a few duplications of the same type of cookies. If you need the cookies to be picked up, write that on the sheet as well.

Sale: Saturday, December 5th sale open to the public.
Sunday, December 6th, sale will continue before and after church.

Cookies will be sold by the pound. We can arrange the baked items on trays or you can arrange them on your own platters (labeled) which we will get back to you. Deliver your cookies and fudge to the church on Friday, December 4th in the evening (times will be forthcoming). Contact Jan Kraus at Jan@kraus.info or call 783-1447 if you need your cookies or fudge picked up. I will be reminding bakers near the end of November.

Thank you! Jan Kraus

KCC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009
KCC Fireplace Room, 7:00 PM
OPEN MEETING—ALL WOMEN WELCOME

South County Church Women United
Celebrates Community Day

World Community Day this year focuses on Environmental Care as we encourage everyone to "Piece Earth Together." Just as quilters piece together a whole new creation from scraps of material, so can we, as in a quilting bee, work together to mend our abused environment.

Do join us! November 6, 2009 at 6:00 PM
Wakefield Baptist Church
236 Main Street, Wakefield

Please bring a dish to serve 6-8 people
and your own place setting.

Library Notes

We have two new books for our library:

The first is An Album of Rhode Island History, 1636-1986, donated in loving memory of Tom Nally by Carrie. This book is by Patrick Conley.

The second is Amazing Grace- a Vocabulary of Faith by Kathleen Norris. This was donated in loving memory of Elizabeth Ferry by her family.

Thank you, everyone.

Tracy Heffron, Librarian

S. P. N. M.

Thanks for your support of the SPNM Chocoholic Frolic and the celebration of the "Love Thy Neighbor Award" presented that day to KCC. November brings us back to assisting South Providence Neighborhood Ministries folks in having a great Thanksgiving. The Sunday through Wednesday of Thanksgiving week, we need volunteers to collect and distribute food and turkeys as well as vouchers for the "birds." If you have more time than money, you can work any day at the office at 747 Broad St. Just call Denise, 461-7509 to make an appointment and you'll be doubling the pleasure of your holiday.

UCC Women to Celebrate "Together Building Bridges"

United Church of Christ women from all of New England will gather in Burlington, VT on March 12-14, 2010 for their 8th CELEBRATION. The theme is "Together Building Bridges… a time to break down and a time to build up…" (Ecclesiastes 3:3)

In 1980 during the Annual Meeting of the New England Women's Fellowship Presidents, five women had a dream. That dream was to reach out to the women in the pews, to involve them in learning and sharing about their faith. The dream was realized in 1982 when the first celebration, "Weaving the Fabric of our Faith," took place in Portland, Maine. Over 1000 women took part in that event and many looked forward to and participated in similar celebrations which have been held every four years ever since. Over the years, this has become an intergenerational event.

Celebration VIII – "Together Building Bridges" – offers exciting opportunities for discovering and understanding differences. Topics such as age, immigration, sexuality, economics, generational differences, and worship choices will be examined. Plan to join the group to make new friends and re-establish old ties with people from New England and beyond. Celebrate our faith, our heritage and womanhood with prayer, singing, laughing and learning.

For more information, contact coordinator Susan Waldron (860-923-2887 or swaldron01@snet.net. Locally, contact Canna Falby or Elizabeth McNab.

KCC Prayer Chain

The telephone prayer chain at KCC started in 1979 at the recommendation of Sue Kenyon and has continued under the faithful leadership of Carol Shilling.

Since January 1, 2009 there have been 390 requests for prayer – 158 requests within the KCC family and 232 for loved ones of our KCC family.

To have your prayer requests included please contact any of the following members:

Rev. Pat Liberty	783-5330
Delight Carpenter	789-8006
Bev Larimer	783-6388
Lou Pearson	783-8975
Carol Shilling	783-5677

Our sixteen links pray daily in our own homes using our prayer list which is updated monthly.

In addition, if you would like to join this important ministry as a link on the prayer chain please contact one of the members above. Each link agrees to pray daily for each and honor confidentiality of each request.

The Friends of the Towers bring you the music of

ENRICO GARZILLI

and

THE SOUTH COUNTY CHAMBER SINGERS

At The Towers in Narragansett

November 14 at 7:30 pm
November 15 at 2:00 pm

www.thetowersri.com or 401-782-2597
Tickets $25

Donna Gilbert Sciola and Margaret Gilbert

Both Donna and her sister, Margaret were raised here in Kingston attending the Kingston Congregational Church and the local schools. Donna was the youngest of four children and Margaret, better know as Peg or Peggy, was the oldest. Their father, a professor at the University of Rhode Island (then known at Rhode Island State College) died when Donna was seven and Peg was seventeen. Donna became close to Peg who often took the place of their father. Donna and Peg both earned their Bachelor's degrees at URI. Donna earned hers in Early Childhood Education and Peg's was in Botany. Later, Donna earned her Master's degree in Education and did her student teaching in a four room school in Allenton, Rhode Island.

Donna married right after graduation in 1960 to Clemente Sciola, better known as Clint, who grew up in Peace Dale. Clint worked for the Federal Government and his job took them to California. It was in San Bernardino that Donna taught first grade. Their son, Mark, was born there but they missed New England and were not comfortable with California's lifestyle. They returned to Rhode Island. Clint's job took him away except for the weekends. Donna was lonely and decided to go back to teaching. She spent one year teaching at Wickford Elementary School before Michael was born. Then, from 1965 to 1990 she taught first grade at Peace Dale Elementary School. There is a family tradition of teaching; first her father at URI, her mother fifth grade in Peace Dale, and her brother and two sisters followed the same career path.

Both sons, Mark and Michael, live today in Connecticut. Mark lives in Griswold and Michael in Middletown. Mark has two children. Both Mark and Michael are close to Peg and often visited her in Florida.

A series of illnesses and tragedies plagued the family. Clint was very ill for eleven years succumbing to diabetic complications when he was only 56. Donna, like her mother, was widowed at an early age. Donna was only 48. Some of the stress of these years and the death of her mother caused Donna's two heart attacks. Lately she has had surgery on both shoulders and both knees.

Donna has many interests: painting watercolors, quilting, the Arbutus garden club, square dancing, traveling and reading. Because Clint wished to stay home on weekends after traveling all week, Donna took the opportunity to visit Europe with the Faellas and Jan DiMasi. In later years she has traveled with a friend or her sons and Peg to the Caribbean, Hawaii, Alaska and Canada where her parents once lived. The United States, Florida, Arizona, and New England have been favorite trips.

Donna was baptized in our church, joined Pilgrim Fellowship and the Junior Choir. Apparently, she was no angel and was once expelled for troublemaking by the choir director. She also belonged to Rainbow Girls, Sigma Kappa at URI, served on the church flower committee and in Women's Fellowship.

Her sister, Peg followed in her father's footsteps in science and was an outstanding scholar starting with being the high school valedictorian. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Botany. She had earned her PhD by the time she was only 24. Peg taught briefly in Louisiana but spent 45 years as a professor at Florida Southern College. Her professional achievements are many, among them three awards for outstanding teaching. She served on many projects and organized numerous field trips for her students. She had an outstanding teaching career and was beloved by many of her students. Peg has returned to Rhode Island to be closer to Donna and her family. She currently resides at the Scallop Shell.

Submitted by Pat Weeden
September 2009