The Spire

From Your Pastor

October 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your warm welcome! Renee and I were touched by your gracious words and excitement about our time together.

The all church picnic was great; we enjoyed sampling the offerings of the great cooks at KCC. The rain held off just long enough for us to be together, though we did run into a rain shower on the way home; always a challenge on a motorcycle!

I look forward to our time of shared ministry. Though some people think interim time is something to hurry through on the way to the next settled minister, it is a significant chapter in the life of a congregation. Many of you remember other interim times at KCC and the significant work done during those times. The tasks of this time will become clearer over the next few months as we work together. I will regularly share information and thoughts in this forum as well as through the Council. Please know that I am open to conversation. You are welcome to drop by the office (office times listed below) and share your thoughts. Or you can call and schedule an appointment.

I believe the best ministry happens when prayer is balanced with conversation, thought is balanced with study and insight is balanced by seeking the insights of others. We will do interim work together.

My schedule is still coming together as I learn about the schedule of KCC. Generally, I will be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (mornings at least). Tuesday will be my day off and on Friday I work in my home study and write my sermon. Shirley will know any exceptions to the schedule. My confidential voice mail is up and running and you may leave messages for me as needed. My e-mail is pliberty@kingcongchurch.org. My after hours phone is 401-499-7752.

See you in church…and other places.

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty
Interim Pastor

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)

October's Deacon of the Month is Kevin Pelton.

In Sympathy

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to Ruth Fiddes and family on the death of her husband, George who died on September 1st. A service was held in the sanctuary on September 5th.

The congregation also expresses deepest condolences to the family of Jacque Piez who died on September 16th. A memorial service will be held on October 3rd at 11:00 am.

REMINDER:

Please wear your NAME TAGS to make it easier for Pat to get to know us. If you need a name tag, please fill out a request form at the Welcome Table during Coffee Hour.

With Blankets+ you can blanket the world with love.

We all loved giving to Blanket Sunday. But when Church World Service changed the name to "Tools and Blankets" we weren't so sure it was the same thing. So this year it's back to Blankets, but with a plus sign, Blankets+. What does that mean? We wonder.

Well, it means a lot more than just providing blankets. It's the future for people all over the world--and that includes our own country--who are faced with an emergency or living in continuing grinding poverty. It's tents and food and other emergency supplies. Tools and seeds. Wells in drought areas. Livestock. Literacy training and micro-loans for women.

So many of us these days, including people we know well who never thought it would happen and many right here in our church, are feeling the effect of our national "recession." We lose jobs, look for new ones, sometimes for a long time. We can't sell our houses. We can't imagine the future. Sometimes all we can do is love each other.

We pray that even now our love can move outward from ourselves and our families to our communities, our country and our world.

Please give generously to Blankets+ Sunday on October 18th. Five dollars will still buy a blanket, but rising shipping costs add another $5. Last year we gave 560 blankets. Let's try for 600 this year!

Thanks very much, your Board of Missions.

The Kingston Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

QUARTERLY MEETING
Sunday, October 25, 2009
10:45 a.m.
Church Sanctuary

Child care will be available.

Tentative Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Minutes of Quarterly Meeting- June 21, 2009
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Reports: Trustees, Deacons, Christian Education, Mission and Social Justice, Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship
7. President's Report
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The Kingston Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2009

Moderator Tom Butcher declared a quorum and called the meeting to order in the church sanctuary at 10:50 A.M.

Handouts:
The Kingston Congregational Church UCC Quarterly Meeting Agenda June 21, 2009
The Kingston Congregational Church UCC Quarterly Meeting Minutes. April 26, 2009
The Kingston Congregational Church Treasurer's Report 12/31/08 through 5/31/09
Board of Christian Education Report for the second quarter of 2009

M/S/P to adopt the June 21, 2009 KCC Quarterly Meeting Agenda as amended.
M/S/P to accept the Minutes of the KCC Quarterly Meeting, April 26, 2009 as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Richard Geisler, Treasurer
Board expenses, in the aggregate, are under budget. Staff expenses are in line with the budget and with 2008. YTD income is $130,146 which is $18,867 under budget. If you factor in the $7700 pledges for 2009 received at the end of 2008, *Total Income* is $11,167 under budget. Pledge activity for 2009 is $8500 under budget, liquid reserves are $21, 324. The endowment balance as of 5-31-09 is $815,957. Hearing no discussion, it was ***M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report.***

Board of Deacons Deb Shaw, Chair
An e-mail was sent to the congregation this week describing pastoral coverage plans for summer and the process by which we will select an interim minister. A letter will be mailed next week. Enrico and Kevin will share the preaching and pastoral duties during July and August. Kevin has been licensed by the RICUCC Church and Ministry Committee so that he can perform the sacraments during this time. The deacons have been reviewing candidate profiles, reading sermons, and visiting churches and hope to recommend a candidate for the interim position to be in place by September.

In response to questions Deb said that the Search Committee for our next settled pastor should be formed 2-3 months after the interim is in place. The church needs time for reflection about where we want to go in the next 5 years and to process the different range of emotions that are present due to this change in pastoral leadership so as to be more together about where we want to be in the future. She envisions the search committee would begin work around the first of next year. Kevin and Enrico will receive $3000 each for their summer preaching and continuity of pastoral care.

Board of Trustees Jeff Richardson, Chair
A request for $5000 to upgrade our kitchen has been submitted to the Potter Fund Committee. There is a plan to regrade a portion of the sidewalk which has shifted. The Trustees will begin their budget process for 2010 at their next meeting. Due to the dip in the endowment we may need more fund raisers. The Trustees have checked with the former treasurer, an attorney, and the former Chair of the Trustees and determined that the $45,000 loan to Pastor Zehring was repaid in the late fall of 2002. Our current Call document is too vague both ways and needs rewriting. We need someone with legal background in employment law. A request was made from the floor that we consider having a contract for our Music Director.

Board of Christian Education_____ Michelle Davis, Chair

See Attached report

Board of Mission and Social Justice_____ Tina Letcher, Chair

No report

Women's Fellowship_____ Elizabeth McNab

Delight Carpenter was elected President at the Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting. There will be a mailing in the fall regarding plans for 2009-2010.

Men's Fellowship_____ Marcus Ferrelli

The Kingston Hill Fair Luncheon was a social success netting $300. Turnout was light.

President's Report_____ Marcus Ferrelli

We are in the process of developing a long range strategic plan which will be an important guide to our search for a new Pastor. We need a sense of urgency about commitment and involvement in this endeavor. We need to be creative.

We serve four generations in several communities. Be alert, be involved and participate in the surveys which will be developed. We hope to present a Strategic Plan in January.

Leadership is dedicated to putting the congregation to work as a unit to accomplish the goals we set for ourselves. We don't need dissension. Marcus urged all to think about this church. What do we want to be? Where should we go? Both small and large change is necessary. Bottom line--we need input.

Old Business

Margaret Munroe urged that the Trustees look into the matter of contracts for all staff stating that as a Congregational church we should be a bottom-up church. Frank Lenox supported the idea that this was a good time to look into the issue of contracts.

Jim Ross asked about the status of our kitchen. Jeff described the work the trustees envision which starts with the stove situation. The Trustees are seeking first to have a safe functioning stove and expect to put a new stove in the kitchen by the Fellowship Hall and eventually remove the two stoves in the other kitchen and provide more working space and a storage place for refuse. They submit requests for quotes for projects as needed. The Women's Fellowship plans to buy a double door refrigerator. Eventually, there may be new shelves and finish work done on the floor and ceiling.

New Business

The moderator congratulated Bill Metz on his 95th birthday and thanked him for many years of service to Kingston Congregational Church and briefly described the plans for the Farewell Celebration for John and Donna Zehring to be held next week after church in the Fellowship Hall with gifts, tributes, and lunch.

The meeting adjourned by the moderator at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha E. Hartman, Clerk

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries Honors Kingston Congregational Church

August 18, 2009

Deborah Shaw
Chair of Deacons
Kingston Congregational Church, UCC
Kingston, RI

Dear Deborah,

We are pleased to notify you that South Providence Neighborhood Ministries has selected Kingston Congregational Church to receive a ***Love Thy Neighbor*** award. This award recognizes individuals, businesses, churches and organizations for their outstanding commitment and dedication to the work of Neighborhood Ministries.

Kingston Congregational Church has long been a supporter of the efforts of Neighborhood Ministries. Over the years volunteers have worked with a variety of programs including Girl Scouts, English as a Second Language, weekly food distribution, Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions, as well as after-school and summer programs for children and youth. Volunteers have served on committees and as board members and helped at yard sales, health fairs, fund-raisers and other events.

In addition, KCC and the Women's Fellowship of KCC have contributed funds, donated food and other gifts, hosted guests, participated in the spelling bee and supported other events. We are most grateful for the many, many ways in which you have extended your outreach ministries to include this vital work in the inner-city setting of South Providence. You have had a part in significantly changing lives for the better.

The award will be presented at the Chocoholic Frolic and Silent Auction which will be held on Saturday, October 17, from 3:00-6:00 pm at the Canonicus Conference Center in Exeter. Please let me know who will be present to receive the award on behalf of the church. We hope many from your church will attend to be a part of the celebration and to enjoy the festive atmosphere of the Frolic and Auction.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bancroft, vice president
Board of Directors
nanbanc@verizon.net or 783-4231

Chocoholic
Frolic
and
Silent Auction
Enjoy hor d'oeuvres, a chocolate fountain
and many chocolate delights.
October 17, 2009
3 – 6 pm
Canonicus Conference Center
Exeter, Rhode Island
$15 per person RSVP by Oct. 7
Make checks payable to SPNM and mail to
SPNM, 747 Broad St, Providence, RI 02907
"Love Thy Neighbor" presentations
Auction includes: Week of Summer Camp gift baskets,
Christmas gifts, sports tickets,
Restaurant certificates, and MUCH MORE!
Proceeds support the work of
South Providence Neighborhood Ministries

A Great Chance for Outreach!

Julio Filomenla of the Hispanic Evangelical Church, UCC in Providence, has invited our congregation to attend their Church Anniversary Celebration at 2 p.m. on Oct. 18th. He mentions that we could come to the bilingual service any time between 2 p.m.and about 4 p.m. --and stay for a meal! Your Board of Missions hopes that many of us will want to attend with us. We also hope that once we have made some friends there, Rev. Julio and a few of his parishioners will visit us for a meal and some good talk about their experiences as immigrants and what they think about the present immigration situation. It's all part of our year-long KCC "Discussion on Immigration."

Contact Tina Letcher at tina.l@cox.net or 783-2356.

Let's Dance

"Am I Blue" "Because" (I) "Don't Get Around Much Anymore". "If I Had My Way", "I'll Be Seeing You" at the KCC Fellowship Hall on Sunday October 18, 2009 "**Let's Dance**".

The first meeting of the KCC afternoon ballroom dance group will meet SUNDAY **OCTOBER 18, 2009 in the Fellowship Hall at 4 pm-5:30** pm. Come and take pleasure in the dance music, practice your dance steps, and enjoy the fellowship. You can add to those recommended healthy 10,000 steps while putting a spring in your dance steps. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Contact Dottie and Ed Leduc for more information.

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

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)
In the month of October we will arrange times on Saturdays to come to your home and pick-up your donations. Also, Wednesdays, October 14th, 21st and 28th I will be at the church from 11:00AM to 1:00PM and help anyone who needs help getting items into the storage area in the basement.

*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)

Come Join The Family Life Committee for our Annual Fall Festival Friday, October 16th, 6-8pm.

Tickets can be purchased ahead on Sept 27th, Oct 4th, $ 11th
Or at the door: $5.00 adults, $3.00 children 5-12, under 5 free
Or $20 for a family

Enjoy meatball grinders, tossed salad, chips, apple crisp and tasty drinks.

Pumpkin painting Crafts Tattoos Mummies
Apple Pie Making Donut Dunking Creepy Reach
Ghost Walk at 7:30pm bring a flashlight

Church School News

Church School started this year on September 13th with an Open House at 9am. Most of the classrooms were quite full - it was great to see all the children again, and to hear their voices ringing through the hallways. It always seems too quiet in the summer!

CPR and First Aid Training: There was a good response to the CPR and First Aid training class that will be held on October 4th. Not only are most of our church school teachers taking the class, but many members of the congregation signed up as well. A huge thank you to Lori Ann Hiener for coordinating this, to her husband Chris for leading the class, and to the Union Fire District for sponsoring it.

Volunteers are still welcome for church school this year!

If you have a child, grandchild or young friend and are looking for a way to spend some special time with him or her, or you just enjoy spending time with children, please consider volunteering in our church school. This is a great way to contribute to the education and formation of Christian youth here at the Kingston Congregational Church. Nurturing the Christian development our young people is a wonderful and rewarding ministry, so please prayerfully consider if this is something that God is calling you to do. **We are in special need of teachers for grades Three and Four and grades Five and Six.** Teaching our children about God's word and about the beliefs and values of a Christian life is not possible without teachers – and that means you! You don't have to be a Bible scholar – you just have to have a heart to minister to children.
To volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact Joanne Gyorgy at 294-7437 or **jogyorgy@verizon.net**.

UCC News

With the elimination of the printed edition of United Church News, all national news publication will shift to the internet and the UCC news portal www.ucc.org/news.

The positive side of this shift is that all news will be "real time" or, at the very least, "near time." The bi-monthly print production schedule called for the collection of feature stories and notices in bundles, so they could be submitted in the print edition. The potential of a two-month delay between events and publication is eliminated by using these technologies.