The Spire

From Your Pastor

Summer 2009

Shalowm is a Hebrew word. It serves as both a greeting and farewell, much as we might say *Hi* and *Bye* or *Have a nice day*. But *Shalowm* means so much more. It is a wish on behalf of another, with a breadth of meanings. *Shalowm* means:

I wish for you peace.
I wish for you to be well.
I wish for you a friendly relationship between us.
I wish good things for you – good health, prosperity, safety.
I wish for that which makes for your best welfare.

That's a lot bigger than wishing someone to have a nice day, isn't it? It's like a blessing, asking God to bless the other. *Shalowm* sounds similar to the word for Christian love (*agape*): *"I wish for you everything that makes for your highest good and best interest."*

Shalowm is my wish for you as I bid you farewell. As I depart from the Kingston Congregational Church later this month, I wish for you everything that makes for your highest good and best interest.

I have been your shepherd. Jesus said: *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me*. I have come to know you, to love you, and it has been my joy to serve you as your Pastor. I have prayed for you and cared for you like a Shepherd cares for the flock entrusted to him.

I must now tell you of the Ordained Minister's Code of Ethics, which states: *I will not, upon my termination and departure from a ministry position, interfere with nor intrude upon the ministry of my successor.* That means you will need to bond with your new shepherd. For me to return for funerals, weddings, baptisms, or any pastoral services would be to intrude upon the ministry of my successor, unless invited by that successor. Through tears, I need to let go of you, and you of me. That is the way of this wonderful and sometimes crazy profession of being called to ministry. It doesn't mean I will forget you, stop praying for you or not care about you any longer. I shall remember you so fondly. It does mean that after I am gone, I can no longer be your pastor.

In time, another will come to whom you will bid *Shalowm*: the welcome greeting rather than the farewell. New bonds and relationships will form. Your new shepherd will care for you with affection, as I have. Please receive your next pastor with the extravagant welcome you extended to me.

Over the years that I have been at Kingston, I recall some of the compliments I have received about the church: *"a great church… prestigious church… high expectations… a full sanctuary… exceptionally gifted leaders… growing."* Should future candidates turn to me, I shall tell them that it is a faithful church. That's what's most important: growing to know God better, to love God more, and to be faithful to God's desire that we love kindness, do justice, and walk humbly with our God.

And so, dear friend, I bid you Shalowm. I wish for you only the highest good and all that works for your best interest. Shalowm, my friend. Shalowm.

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 June

June 7	Message: *The Power of Positive Thinking*. Sermon Talk-back, following worship. Teacher Appreciation Sunday. Children's Sunday. Communion. Fire Drill. No verbal announcements today.
June 14	Message: *Perhaps you… for just such a time as this*. Senior High Sunday. Choirs last Sunday. Teacher brunch following worship.
June 21	Message: *Why I chose the UCC*. UCC's 52nd Anniversary. Father's Day. 1st Day of Summer. Quarterly Meeting of the Congregation following worship. Men's choir singing.
June 28	Message: *In Sum*. Pastor Zehring's final Sunday at the Kingston Congregational Church. UCC Order for a Time of Passage.

June's Deacon of the Month is Louise Pearson.
July's Deacon of the Month is Dottie Leduc.
August's Deacon of the Month is Andrea Richardson.

Baptism:

Travis Benjamin Coleman	Parents: David and Jennifer Coleman	March 29, 2009
Natalia Racquel Salvadore	Parents: Michael and Tracey Salvadore	April 26, 2009
Jacqueline Mariella Salvadore	Parents: Michael and Tracey Salvadore	April 26, 2009

SUMMER BOARD MEETINGS: Boards will be deciding their summer schedule in June. Board chairs should notify members and the Church Secretary of their schedule for July and August. The Church Calendar online is the most accurate calendar for KCC activities.

We welcome new members who joined KCC on May 17th:

Fredericka Bettinger lives in Exeter with her husband, Franz ("Fronze") Hayes. She moved here from Charlestown, is mother of four children, and retired from working with children with behavioral and mental health issues.

Franz Hayes lives in Exeter with his wife, Fredericka Bettinger. He retired from the precision metal working industry and is father of two sons. Though a native New Englander, Franz's work took him for 35 years to the mid-south.

Michelle Talbert lives in Carolina. She is a clinical microbiologist working in New London, Connecticut.

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:

May 31, June 1 and 3 – Chariots of Fire (Pentecost)
June 7, 8 and 10 – The Anvil Chorus/2 – breathing
June 14, 15 and 17 – Bridal Chorus
June 21, 22 and 24 – The Beautiful Blue Danube
June 28 and 29, July 1 – Humming Chorus from Madame Butterfly

Place: The Library of the Kingston Congregational Church

Picture Directory

The picture taking will be done from Tuesday, June 2 to Saturday, June 6. If you missed the sign up period and would still like to have your picture taken by Lifetouch, please contact Andrea Richardson at 792-8316 a.s.a.p.

In a Time of Transition…

The Board of Deacons is currently in the process of searching for an interim pastor. We hope to have him/her in place by the beginning of September.

In the meantime, we are also arranging for transitional leadership during the months of July and August. As the plans are finalized we will be communicating to the congregation through notices in the weekly bulletin as well as an e-mail from Shirley.

We thank you for your support and patience during this transitional period.

Deb Shaw
Chair, Board of Deacons

The Kingston Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday, June 21, 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- April 26, 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
April 26, 2009

Moderator Tom Butcher declared a quorum and called the meeting to order in the church sanctuary at 10:55 A.M.

Handouts:
The Kingston Congregational Church UCC Quarterly Meeting Agenda April 26, 2009
The Kingston Congregational Church UCC Annual Meeting Minutes. January 25, 2009
The Kingston Congregational Church Treasurer's Report 12/31/08 through 3/31/09

M/S/P to adopt the April 26, 2009 KCC Quarterly Meeting Agenda as presented.
M/S/P to accept the Minutes of the KCC Annual Meeting, January 25, 2009 as presented.

Treasurer's Report Richard Geisler, Treasurer
The $13,000 cash income deficit looks worse than it is because of seasonal cash flow variation. YTD our income is $8000 less than it was at this time last year. Trustees' expenses were over budget due to snow removal (seven plowings at $300 each). The Concert Committee disbanded and their $2500 balance was allocated to the Music Committee. $12,500 was taken from the checking account to cover expenses. Checking account balance is now about $25,000.
M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's report.

Board of Trustees Jeff Richardson, Chair
Blue Jean Sunday is next weekend. The Potter Fund $5000 will be used to upgrade the kitchen. Sand will be removed from the parking lot on Monday. Long term expect some budget shortfalls because of an expected drop in anticipated income due to the economy, the decrease in the endowment and the expenses of hiring a new pastor. The Trustees ask members to think about fund raisers.

Board of Deacons Deb Shaw, Chair
Deb thanked Tom Brillat, Diana Geisler and Paulette Osterman for their service on the Board and welcomed their replacements Brad Asher, Lori Crabtree and Jim Findlay.

Sign up in May for Church Directory picture taking appointments June 2-6.

Membership lists were reviewed and 106 members were determined to be inactive. There are now 448 active members. Questions were raised about the process of the review. It was suggested that information in the By-Laws pertaining to membership obligations be printed in the Spire and made easily available to members. A more personal outreach to inactive members was suggested to make our response more active, sensitive and helpful.

Frank Lenox and Jill Dumican are coordinators for the Confirmation class which combines 8th and 9th graders this year and will run March through December.

Rev. Dr. Malcolm MacKenzie will run an eight week series on contemplative prayer. Each week the session for the week will run at three different times.

The Deacons will consult with Rev. Chuck Barnes regarding the appointment of an interim Pastor. In response to questions Deb noted that the By-Laws give the Deacons responsibility for recommending to the Council the appointment of an interim Pastor.

Board of Christian Education_____ Michelle Davis, Chair
Michelle welcomed Michael Salvadore, Rachel Marino and Mary Cole to the Board.

Under discussion: The Safe Church Policy regarding having two people with children at all times and the issue of creating more space in one of the classrooms.

The Sr. High trip to New Orleans and the Progressive Dinner with 85 participants were very successful.

Adult CE programs: After church on April 19th, Glenn Kumekawa gave a moving account in the Fireplace Room about his internment in the United States during W.W.II. In May, Cindy Dowgiallo will lead a three-week series "Just for Mom's."

Board of Mission and Social Justice_____Tina Letcher, Chair
Tina noted the great sense of mission in this church. The *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering was almost $3000. We donated about 300 food items to be matched with $300 by a Feinstein Matching Grant.

May 3 is Immigration Rights Sunday. It is hoped we will have conversation with visitors from the Hispanic Evangelical Church. The Board will participate in a drive to contact legislators about the UCC resolution for a more humane immigration policy. An immigration lawyer will speak at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, May 28, 2009.

KCC members participated in the Welcome Shelter walk. A talk by Sharon Key about her peace work is being planned. On March 29, the Peace Service, with participants from at least 10 faith communities, was held again at KCC.

Women's Fellowship_____Helen Rowe-Drake
Programs: January, Laurel Ferrelli- Court Advocate; March, Prentice Stout- a talk about *Backyard Birds*; April, Church World Service Kits-20 baby kits (94 lbs), 100 hygiene kits (70 lbs) and 229 school kits (565 lbs) at a cost of $1300 to pay for goods and shipping; May, the Kingston Hill Fair bake sale and June 15, the Ice Cream Social.

Men's Fellowship_____Marcus Ferrelli for Gary Harlow
Men are needed to help with the Kingston Hill Fair Luncheon.

President's Report_____Marcus Ferrelli, President
The Strategic Planning Committee has met with Chuck Barnes and will continue its plan to set up house meetings of 8 participants plus 2 leaders for members to reconsider how we see our ministry in the community, state, nation and the world. Discussion will include what we want in a minister/leader. Marc hopes at least 50% of the congregation will participate in setting goals and a plan to meet them. The committee plans to submit a report before the Annual Meeting. Ernest Torres is chairing a By-Laws review. The time frame and steps for the search process will come after Council accepts Rev. Zehring's official resignation.

Old Business-none. **New Business**-none. **Closing Prayer-** Rev. Jack Whitehead
Meeting adjourned by the moderator at 11:53 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha E. Hartman, Clerk

Women's Fellowship and Church World Service

We had a very successful campaign this year and with the help of 58 contributors of money we raised $1426. This met the cost of our purchases, and gives us $176 towards the back to school sales this summer to begin buying supplies for 2010! Women's Fellowship funds provided the money for the shipping which is $2/kit x 359 for $718. So many others contributed time, talent and treasures.

I would especially like to thank Cindy Dowgiallo for her help with the school kits, and she and Loretta Shaw and Elizabeth McNab purchased and donated all 687 notebooks this year. I would like to thank school bag sewers: Susan Perkins-Brillat, Beth Asher, and Beth Curtis. Also, Nancy Ross for rulers and Carol Shilling and Martha Hartman for pencils. We spent $335 for 229 school kits.

I would like to thank baby sweater knitters: Pat Weeden, Carolyn Barwise, Lori Remington, Dottie Leduc, and Janet Munroe. We spent $677 on 30 baby kits.

For the Hygiene Kits I would like to thank Canna Falby for 50 washcloths and Carol Shilling for nail clippers. We had all the toothbrushes and combs left from last year so we only spent $199 for 100 Hygiene Kits this year. $39 was spent for administration for a total of $1250.

I would also like to thank those who helped set up: Carolyn and David Barwise, Martha Hartman, Elizabeth McNab, Loretta Shaw, Pat Weeden, Connie Fitzelle, Jane Skogley and Cindy D.

And thank you to those who filled and counted and re-counted the kits: Carolyn, Martha, Elizabeth, Loretta, Cindy, Delight, Kennie, Canna, Tina, Dottie, Doris, Pat Cox, Betty Faella, Joyce Bridgman, Ann Ross, Nancy Ross, and Margaret Munroe. A special Thank You goes to Herb Behrens for being willing to cook us breakfast with the help of George Fiddes and Clark Bridgman – it was delicious and we appreciate you!! Thank you to anyone I've forgotten to mention and to those of you who were anonymous givers. I truly appreciate your support and your contributions – we do it for the children and the families who need it so much.

Helen Rowe-Drake

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 all who called and sent cards after my surgery in April.

Joan McCauley

Library Notes

We have four new additions to our library this month.

Carol Shilling bought and donated a book entitled "Hope Was Here" which is a wonderful book for young adults. Thank you, Carol.

A book entitled "Hurrican Katrina, the one we feared" has been donated. This is a special addition, as it has been signed by all the participants of the KCC youth group mission trip in April.

Clark Bridgman found a copy of the book by Dr. Metz on the internet about the history of KCC and has graciously donated it to our library. Thank you so much, Clark, for your generosity.

Also, heartfelt thanks to the anonymous person who donated the book by Dr. Metz about the history of KCC. Thank you so much.

Tracy Heffron
Librarian

Bricks

We are offering you another opportunity to purchase an engraved brick for our walkway. Wouldn't it be nice to remember family members, friends, graduates, marriages, births, anniversaries, etc. with a special gift of an engraved brick to last many, many years to come. Your own names would be a super addition to our KCC walkway too, knowing you will be helping our church as well. Bricks are $100 each, unless you use extra letters which cost another $5.00. Kindly make checks payable to KCC, and write BRICKS in the memo line. Forms for the brick orders are in Fellowship Hall on a table. Please leave all orders in the church office. Questions? Call Audrey Hallberg at 364-0803. Thank you.

Save the Date!

Please put September 25, 2009 on your calendar. The CE Board will be having their first KCC Friday Game Night and Potluck Dinner for Everyone. Details will follow.

Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm from June 15th through September 4th. Regular office hours of Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, will resume the day after Labor Day, September 8th.

Spire Printing Schedule

Please note that printing of the *Spire* will be suspended for July and August. The *Spire* will resume printing for the September issue. The deadline for September *Spire* articles is August 15th.

Women's Fellowship
Ice Cream Social
Monday, June 15th at 7 PM
Followed by
Annual Meeting
Speaker: Mary Rhoda, Exec. Director Domestic Violence Resource Center

Flea Markets to Aid SPNM

Flea markets to benefit South Providence Neighborhood Ministries on SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH will be at TWO sites: Wakefield Baptist Church here in South Kingstown, 7:30-10;30 A.M., and at the SPNM headquarters at the Calvary Baptist Church, 747 Broad St., Providence, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Breakfast will be served concurrently at the Wakfield Baptist Church--$6 per adult and $3 per child. If you have items to offer for sale in either market, please call the Findlays at 783-2254 or the Mendillos at 789-0937. You may also drop off items at Wakefield Baptist Church on Main Street in Wakefield. Your unwanted "stuff" can generate funds to provide food and kid's camp for our South Providence neighbors this summer. By April 30th KCC had collected 350 items for the SPNM food pantry, each item matched by a dollar from the Alan Feinstein Foundation. Thanks to all!

At the Annual Meeting Linda Mendillo and Jim Findlay were re-elected to the SPNM Board and will serve again as Secretary and Co-Chair.

Community Hunger Awareness Day
June 4, 2009, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
on the Village Green in Peace Dale *(Rain or shine)*

Sponsored by the Hunger Task Force to raise awareness of hunger in our community. Pizza and ice cream donated by local venders. The Westmoreland Street Jammers and others will be out to entertain the crowd. Bring along your own blankets and chairs for an evening of great music and food. Please bring donations of non-perishable food to contribute to the Jonnycake Center food drive for their emergency food pantry. For more information, call 401-789-1559 or visit www.jonnycakecenter.org.

Summer Food Collection for the Jonnycake Center

We will be collecting food for the Jonnycake Center on the first Sundays in July and September (June and August are for South Providence Neighborhood Ministries). The Jonnycake Center has particular need for items such as whole grain rice and pasta (and barley), whole grain cereals, and low sodium items (vegetables, etc.). Also, they have a Free Farmer's Market on Tuesday afternoons for their clients. If you have extra garden produce which you can bring to the Jonnycake Center on Tuesday mornings their clients would be so appreciative of fresh produce! Those of you with berry bushes or fruit trees, these are ESPECIALLY appreciated. Thank you for helping out the hungry among us in South County.

Environmental Task Force

The Environmental Task Force has some recommendations for your summer reading and they will soon be in our library:

Love God Heal Earth is an excellent new paperback book by the Rev Canon Sally Bingham who is an Episcopal priest serving as the environmental minister at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. She is the founder of the Regeneration Project whose mission is to deepen the connection between faith and ecology and to focus on a religious response to global warming. She spearheaded the growth of the Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) which now has programs in 27 states including Rhode Island. Rev Bingham writes: "I believe that people of faith cannot stand by and let Creation be destroyed. We have a responsibility to protect it. We have dominion, for God's sake. Dominion isn't exploit and plunder; dominion is care, compassion and concern. The kind of dominion that God has over us is described in one word-LOVE. It is about taking care of what has been given for us to use, but not abuse." She believes that the environment is an issue of compassion, not politics and her purpose for the book is to provide hope that is needed to persevere and keep on looking for solutions. The book is actually 21 leading religious leaders of different faiths each writing a chapter about our sacred duty to protect the environment and their perspective from their denomination. Her sermons are available through www.gracecathedral.org and more information is available at www.theregenerationproject.org.

You can also ShopIPL for energy efficient light bulbs and other products. The Green Collar Economy by Van Jones who is a Yale Law graduate, an award winning activist and the founder and president of Green for All. His book presents a viable plan for solving two of our biggest problems – our devastated environment and the failing economy. He believes we can invest and invent our way into a healthy new green economy, IF we can inspire people and each commit to taking action NOW. I found his book to be eloquent, powerful, hopeful and motivational – I certainly want to believe, and help make it happen. For more information, go to his website:www.greenforall.com.

The Green Bible is a new revised standard version that is environmentally friendly with a cotton/linen cover, soy based ink, and printed on recycled paper. It also has over 1,000 verses highlighted in green that are passages about the earth and our relationship with it. There is a foreword by Desmond Tutu and several excellent essays prior to the Bible text. After the text there is "The Green Bible Trail Guide", a resource guide for more information, a green subject index, and a concordance. It is the first Bible of its kind and "will help you see that caring for the earth is not only a calling, but a lifestyle."

Think of Mother Earth this summer and do what you can do: recycle, turn off the lights and unplug when you aren't using something, program your thermostat so you don't waste air conditioning, combine your errands for less driving, ride your bike if possible, take the train or bus when you can, go for a walk in nature, take at least one political action for the earth, and enjoy your summer!!

Submitted by Helen Rowe-Drake