

The Kingston Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Kingston, RI 02881

Annual Report  
July 2012 – June 2013

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey,  
You are welcome here.

**Mission Statement of the Kingston Congregational Church**

“We are a Christian Church that supports each person's spiritual journey  
through the communal pursuit of worship, learning, and service.”

(Voted on and approved by the Congregation on April 27, 2008)

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## Annual Report of the Senior Pastor, 2012-13

### Relationships and Revitalization

This was a year of remarkable accomplishment for our church, thanks to our outstanding staff, officers, leaders, boards and committees, thanks to our excellent Church School teachers and our inspiring Choir, thanks to the devoted members and friends of this community of faith, and thanks, most importantly, to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the life we share.

**The most important accomplishments of this year are to be found in our relationships**, for it was a year in which we dedicated ourselves to living a more purposeful, more careful, embodiment of **the Christian practice of the beloved community**, a faith community in which the absolute priority of **relationships over results** became a guiding principle of our life.

In most churches, especially in active ones like KCC, the importance of getting results from programs and ministries is lost on no one. But it is clear that, for the most part, our people have understood that **the care and nurture of our relationships must take priority over results**. We make this commitment both because it expresses the indisputable **teaching of Jesus**, and because we can see that no good result can be sustained in the long-term, if we do not give the highest priority to building and maintaining our relationships. And, as can be seen in our meetings, our board deliberations, our worship and fellowship life, and (most of the time) in our emails, this essential understanding is becoming deeply rooted among us.

But this has also been for us **a year of revitalization**, a year in which much dedicated work of previous years began to bear fruit in our community, and a year in which we put in place programs, ministries, additional staff, building improvements, and long-needed technology that elevated our efforts in hospitality and membership growth, worship, stewardship, Christian Education and other areas of our church life. While we had significant achievement in all these areas, **we set in motion a range of initiatives that are preparing us for more fruitful efforts in all areas of our work**.

I have believed in this church since my first days with you, but the past year has given me new and **even stronger reasons to regard our future with confident hope**. It is certainly true that **we face challenges, especially in our financial stewardship**. But I believe that, as the commitment of our people grows, so will the resources we are willing to commit to the ministries of our church, to **the blessed work we are privileged to do in Christ's name**.

I want to thank all of you for your kindness to me, as I continue to learn how to be the best pastor I can be to this congregation. Please hold me in your thoughts and prayers, as I will hold all of you in mine. And let us look with gladness to the future God has for us as a people of faith in Kingston and far beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. L. Weldon Palmer

## **President's Annual Message July 2012 – June 2013**

Congratulations go out to a church community that has demonstrated incredible resilience in dealing with that ever worrisome word called “change”. I took a look back at Tom Brillat’s message from last year and was pleased to see that our church community has persevered along the path of continued growth over a sustained period of change.

The term “revitalization” has become our guiding force throughout many of these changes. We have been blessed throughout our first full year with Reverend Palmer at the helm. During our last council meeting, Reverend Palmer took a moment to remind us all of the many accomplishments our church community has achieved. They include:

- ✓ Installation of a new church school director
- ✓ Implementation of a new safe church policy (2 person rule)
- ✓ Installation of a new sound system to replace an antiquated version that was far past its prime
- ✓ Placement of a paid youth leader
- ✓ Creation of a systematic church growth program
- ✓ Addressed church administrative needs by installing new church software to more adequately track church finances

We are in the process of updating our website to better appeal to prospective members and keep our surrounding community up to date on church activities.

Our trustees have continued to improve our buildings and grounds including:

- ✓ Enhancing lighting
- ✓ Updating kitchen equipment
- ✓ Evaluating exterior water issues
- ✓ Mending structural issues
- ✓ And let us not forget our new comfy cushions that are adorning the interior of our historic sanctuary.

These accomplishments are all a direct result of the hard work of our boards and committees. By working together, our achievements have been far greater than the sum of our individual parts.

We are moving forward – and we have a talented group of committed members leading the way. I feel very fortunate to have such an accomplished group of leaders to work with here at Kingston Congregation Church. My motto in life is to “leave no stone unturned”. Revitalization is our path to the ever changing future.

If you have not joined us yet – I strongly encourage you to – as it is an amazing experience to be part of something this fantastic.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael W. McMahon  
President KCC Council

## **Annual Report from Board of Deacons July 2012 – June 2013**

Board Members:

Craig Urian, Chair; Maureen White, Dottie Leduc, Wayne Lee, James Findlay, Michael Wakefield, Todd Gregory, Norma Hagist, Christi Saurette, Tracy Heffron, Beth Asher, Bradley Trodson

The year started out with addressing residue issues that had been seeded several years ago. The primary issue was discussing the relevance of the different categories of membership. From the meetings regarding this issue a draft document describing the issue and capturing the position of the Board of Deacons was created and reviewed by the Board of Deacons and then presented to Council. The intent was to indicate that a revision to the Church's By-Laws be considered wherein only two categories of membership be considered, member and non-member, and that all other categories be purged. The creation of other categories had created uneasiness and situations that have caused deviation from the calling of, "Whoever you are and where ever you are on life's journey, you are welcomed!"

The community this year experienced an unusually heavy period wherein families were having to deal with the sickness and passing of other family members or close friends. During this period, there were discussions regarding the initiation of a Pastoral Care Group to help Pastor Palmer and the possibility of creating a support group and consolidating resources to help those who may need help coping with their situations.

This year the decision was made to go with a single Christmas Eve service and a single Easter Sunday service. One of the reasons for these decisions was recognizing the low attendance of the second services. In turn there was a desire to bolster the attendance of the first service and make an effort to have as much of the full congregation together during these special occasions. This did happen wherein we achieved close to 300 attendees for each service. Although crowded, there was a good sense of community. It is hoped that we can return to two services during these special holidays as we grow and our demographics change. These decisions will be reviewed each year.

For the past year, the church has experienced inconsistent/poor performance from the sound system. This prompted a plea from Rev. Palmer this year for the Board of Deacons to make a motion to Council to move forward with the sound system upgrade.

This year's weather forced the cancellation of worship service twice and a review of the procedures for getting the message out wherein a new formal documented version is in the process of being prepared.

The year concluded with spirited discussions that pertain to the revitalization of the church wherein the passion and commitment of each board member was strong and insight full and will be the basis for the continued growth of this welcoming and supportive community.

Respectfully,

R. Craig Urian

Chair of the Board of Deacons, Kingston Congregational Church

## Board of Music Annual Report 2012/2013

The Board of Music is blessed to have Enrico Garzilli composer, writer and performer each week at Kingston Congregational Church. Throughout the year Enrico not only leads our church choir each Sunday, he also invites multiple guest performers frequently that add a special quality to worship service. In 2012 / 2013 there were over 20 guest appearances that were vocalists and instrumental experts.

This year the choir loft had a building restoration to the lighting. Replacing the old fluorescent tubes is a modern theater track lighting system that enhances the visual presentation and also makes the area much brighter for choir members to read sheet music.

Thanks to the efforts of Board member Todd Gregory, a new drum-set was purchased by him and donated to our church. Todd, a specialist on percussion instruments, has enjoyed performing with Enrico and is a delightful addition to special worship services.

The Music Board presented the second Holiday Concert to celebrate the Advent Season. The concert is now a KCC tradition inviting performers of all ages and abilities to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Directed by Enrico Garzilli the concert set the tone for a wonderful holiday! We hope to attract more performers and even a larger audience this year!

The Music Board's responsibility to maintain over a half a million dollars of instruments and equipment is an ongoing project. Our pianos are tuned on a regular basis along with the meticulous maintenance of our church organ and all other instruments.

A special note of acknowledgement to Diana Geisler who organizes and takes great care of our church music library of over 100 years of printed books and musical programs that are virtually priceless.

The Music Board was instrumental in coordinating with the Board of Trustees a new church sound system. The new system is state of the art connecting our pastor and the musicians together for a truly amazing experience of sound and meditation.

The Music Board will be sorry to see Cynthia Anderson move to Maine. Cynthia gave KCC a wonderful gift this year when she invited her sister Suzanne Ciani to perform in our sanctuary. The concert was fantastic! Broadway came to KCC through the amazing talent and experience of a world known entertainer. It was for free!

This report needs to acknowledge the support and very hard work that is not always known, a great job to Joanna Burkhardt, Helen Behrens and Gary Harlow. These Music Board members set up luncheons during concerts, printed programs, ushered concerts, advertised events and conducted the thorough upkeep of everything connected to the Board.

The Music Board will continue to work hard as music is a very important part of our worship and fellowship. And yes, there will be a surprise event in the next year that is in the planning! Let's just call it for now... **BUH-NAN-ZAH!!!**

Mark Tortolani  
Music Board Chairperson

## **Annual Report 2013/2014 Music Director/Organist**

I very much enjoy being organist and music director here at Kingston Congregational Church. I believe this past year again has continued to be a wonderful musical and worshipful experience.

The adult and junior choirs have been excellent in their dedicated contribution to Worship. The repertoire of anthems for the choirs consists of the best available music from the past as well as new musical texts. While the Senior Choir sings every Sunday, the Junior Choir sings on the fourth Sunday of the month and on special feasts. Lori Ann Hiener and Alice Babcock lead the singers very admirably.

The adult choir continues to meet every Thursday evening to prepare for Sunday Worship. I deeply appreciate their great contribution to Worship. Easter was truly wonderful with Trumpets, Timpani and Violin. We were fortunate to have Jenny Collins and Todd Gregory play percussion at a large number of services this year. For Pentecost, the choir again performed with trumpets and percussion. One of the highlights of 2012 was the Christmas talent show. Many in the congregation and in neighboring churches were very generous with their talents. The same kind of magnificent talent and generosity has been in evidence throughout the year.

On a personal note, I have continued to compose music for both concert performances and services. I have also continued to conduct the South County Chamber Singers. On Palm Sunday, we performed the world premiere of my Oratorio, *The Resurrection and the Life*. The Rev. Sharon Key and Michael DiMucci were the magnificent soloists. In November of last year, we performed at the First Baptist Church in Wickford. We performed a thrilling work entitled, *The Armed Man*. by the English composer, Karl Jenkins. Several members of our choir regularly sing with the Chamber Singers. One of our very dedicated sopranos, Margaret Bradley, is the president of the organization.

I would like to thank Mark Tortolani and the Music Board for their excellent leadership. Their help, advice, and encouragement have been invaluable. I would also like to thank Diana Geisler and Grace Woodward who have provided very much appreciated service as choir librarians. And finally, to all of you, I express my gratitude once again for your support, encouragement, and inspiration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Enrico Garzilli

## Trustees 2012 / 2013 Annual Report

Board includes: Chair Person: David Remington; Members: Clark Bridgman, Eric Widmer, Steve White, Mark Tortolani; Ad Hoc members: Pat Cox, Audrey Hallberg

In the summer of 2012 the Trustees evaluated the deterioration of the sanctuary and church house built in the 1800's. The Trustees presented a restoration and resolution to church council to begin an initiative to repair our historic facility. This initiative has been accepted and is now in the working stages of our church president Mike McMahon who is leading the project and the campaign to raise the funds to make the restoration a reality in 2013 / 2014.

The Trustees in 2012 / 2013 accomplished numerous improvements to KCC with the added help of Ad Hoc members Pat Cox and Audrey Hallberg. Additional recognition to both Shirley Schock and Andy Cournoyer, church staff members who have also supported the efforts of the Trustees to achieve a very successful year!

1. Fellowship Hall had all ceiling fans replaced with commercial grade appliances.
2. Lights in Fellowship Hall were repaired and energy efficient spot-lights replaced old lights.
3. A "Partnership" with the organization "RISE" allowed us to replace all church light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs at no charge! The program partnership also allowed for the replacement of high security lighting around the church grounds.
4. A New Stove highly rated by consumer reports was installed in our kitchen.
5. A New Snow Blower was purchased and paid for by Susan Macy to help our church sexton.
6. New Theater Lighting was installed to the church choir loft in a joint effort of Trustees and the Music Board.
7. A new sub-basement dehumidifier system was designed in 2012/2013 by Trustees and is now in operation protecting both our historic church house and our historic sanctuary.
8. Other improvements include: Fixing the ceiling in the church music library, creating a platform for dehumidifier in church nursery, removal of mold panels in the basement.
9. Trustees asked the Finance Committee to evaluate the accounting and bookkeeping system as it is very old and may be out of date.
10. Dishwasher in the kitchen is an agenda item for Trustees in 2013/2014. The cost of replacing a commercial grade appliance will require in depth research being conducted presently by Trustee Clark Bridgman.
11. The Trustees in cooperation with the Music Board and requested emergency needs of the Board of Deacons had a new state of the art sound system installed to enhance both a real life sound of our pastor in worship and offer wonderful music potential for future concerts!
12. Kingston Fair Cookout / Fundraiser organized by Chair Person David Remington. The Trustees served hotdogs, hamburgers and grilled sausage to over a hundred guests who visited KCC on Saturday May 18, 2013.
13. Church Pew Cushions have been replaced in 90% of the sanctuary as an ongoing initiative lead by previous Board members Pat Cox and Audrey Hallberg who also remain as support to the Trustees in the position of Ad Hoc members.

### Summary:

The Trustees are the heart and soul of keeping our church a great place for visitors, friends and family to listen, pray and worship God! We will continue our efforts moving into a new year that will present new opportunities to improve and maintain our beautiful historic church.

## **Treasurer's Annual Message 2012-13**

During the course of the year the budget was mixed. Pledge income was short and slow but ended the year exceeding expectations only just in the closing weeks. Budgeted pledges were \$248,510 and closing pledges were \$250,798. Most boards kept expenses inline over the year. Trustees overspent their budget largely due to snow plowing expenses but, also due in large part, to a very busy and productive year with many projects improving the facility. In the end their budget was balanced by lower than expected utilities expenses. The unpredictable number of giving by members who do not pledge also exceeded the budget of \$14,000 by \$16,102 and therefore overall income was up. Staffing expenses were inline. With the year finally closing, the operating budget had a surplus of \$7,486. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report for the complete breakdown of income and expenses.

The church uses a software program called "Church Windows". It consists of several integrated modules, much like Quicken is the finance module. In addition it includes modules for managing membership and contributions. We do not use the payroll module, which is contracted out. The finance module had been set up quite a number of years ago and was very rigid in structure and its organization did not keep up with our changing needs. Church Windows was phasing out support for the finance module. Over the years, and most recently, there have been many changes and additions in board structure. In recent years reporting was done by manually assembling reports using numbers from the software. Church Windows encouraged the implementation of their accounting module. With the upgrade to the new accounting module we were able to restructure accounting to match our needs.

In the upcoming year, we want to make the reporting more rote, open and inclusive. We have zeroed out many funds which have been inactive for several years and eliminated duplicated line items. Most boards now only have one (1) line item.

Submitted by,

Doug Kraus, Treasurer

## **Board of Finance Annual Report July 2012 to June 2013**

The Board of Finance was created last year by splitting off the financial duties from the Board of Trustees. Last fall the Board of Finance met for the first time and reviewed its newly assigned mission to oversee all the financial matters concerning the Church. Jeff Richardson was elected the Chair of the Board. The other members of the Board are Dick Geisler, Ken Kermes, Jim Ross, Steve White and Doug Kraus, who holds the position of Church Treasurer. It was decided to rotate the secretarial duties for each meeting.

The Board met on a monthly basis during the fall, winter and spring. The Board's primary goal during that time was to draft and propose a budget for the Church for the new fiscal year starting July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. After many lengthy meetings, the proposed budget was delivered to the Church Council where it was reviewed and delivered to the Congregation for its vote. The budget of \$339,194 was approved by the Congregation during the spring quarterly meeting. The Board of Finance also supervises the Audit Committee and the Investment Committee, who has done a great job of investing the endowment and growing it in an uncertain economic environment. The Board plans to have a church wide audit performed in the fall of 2014.

Submitted by  
Jeff Richardson, Chair

### **Investment Committee 2012/2013 Annual Report**

The Investment Committee met 3 times during the 18 months ending 6/30/13. On January 1, 2012 the Endowment portfolio had a market value of \$975,569. During the period, \$97,819 in gifts and bequests were added and \$80,306 was distributed for support of the Church budget for a net inflow of \$ 17,513. The market value as of June 30, 2013 had risen to \$1,195,812. For the 12 months ending 6/30/13 the Endowment had an 11.9% annual rate of return. This was slightly better than the Vanguard Balanced Index Fund performance of 10.78%. At year-end the portfolio held a mix of 10 index mutual funds and ETFs, with an approximate portfolio weighting of 75.5% equity, 24.3% bonds and .2% cash.

The Committee recommended, and the Trustees and Church Council approved that 4.5%-5% of a 7 year rolling average be used in 2014 to support the general operating budget.

The Committee continues to recommend the future adoption of a spending policy more in line with UCC recommendations that not only supports the operating budget, but provides for capital improvements as well as ministry and mission beyond the general operating budget of KCC. It is hoped that this spending policy could be phased in over 5 years.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Baker, secretary  
Members: Tom Butcher, Jim Elliot, Ron Stevens, Ernie Torres

Ex Officio members: Doug Kraus, Jim Aukerman

## **Board of Stewardship 2012/2013**

The KCC Board of Stewardship faced a difficult task as we began the 2013-2014 Stewardship campaign this past spring: to top the previous year's campaign. Last year's campaign, conducted in conjunction with the arrival of our new pastor Weldon, broke all recent records as we reported an end of year pledge total of over \$257 thousand, and this year we very much wanted continued growth in Stewardship to support the church's continued growth on programs and to catch up on needed work on the church and its grounds. This year, we decided that we would not conduct home visits as we have for the past two years; with the growth of our new Membership Board and its activities contacting members, we thought that visiting was not as critical to inform people of the church activities and programs. Other than visitation, though, this year's Stewardship campaign had a similar structure to last year's.

We began our campaign with a campaign logo art contest, attracting a winning entry by Sharon Alemany, reflecting our theme, "What if We Built a Church?" Throughout the campaign, we focused on continuing the momentum begun in the past two years as we continue to develop many areas within the church – our Christian Education program, our fellowship and social activities, our worship and music activities, and the care of our historic site and buildings.

Next, we were treated to a wonderful Stewardship Brunch led by Sue Buntz and Sharon Davis, featuring a talk by our campaign's honorary chairs, Doris and Jim Findlay, who recalled their many experiences in our church. Throughout the following month or two, as pledges came in, the board was gratified at the continued support of the congregation. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Stewardship campaign brought in pledges exceeding \$242,831 from 153 pledges.

We all notice that this total is less than last year's, and the board spent some time looking at this in detail. We noted that a few pledges from last year had to be revised lower during the year this year, meaning that our pledge "baseline" was somewhat lower than last year's total would indicate; also, some prior pledges could not be continued due to health concerns. We are grateful to note that the Church Council was able to put together a church budget that supports our church's ongoing development on the basis of the Stewardship campaign.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank the many people who assisted in the campaign: In addition to Doris and Jim Findlay, Sue Buntz, and Sharon Davis, we thank the junior high students who served brunch, the Membership Board with whom we consulted during the campaign, and everybody in the church who pledged and who gives of themselves for KCC.

Sincerely yours,

The KCC Board of Stewardship: Sue Kermes; Chris Little; Karin Aukerman; Ann Lenox, working chair; and David Cann, chair

## **Board of Membership Annual Report July 2012 – June 2013**

The Board of Membership was created as the result of Bylaws Review/Update process that was completed in 2011. The Board's initial Priority Areas were: 1) Attracting people to KCC; 2) Welcoming Visitors; 3) Implementing a New Member Process; and 4) On-going Support for Members. The Board first met in November 2011 with 7 Board members, the Registrar, a Deacon Liaison, and Pat Liberty, the Interim Pastor. When Weldon Palmer became the Settled Pastor in the Spring of 2012, he attended all Board Meetings. It was with considerable sadness that we lost Carol Shilling's presence and contributions with her passing in the Spring of 2013.

The Board initiated and has worked on multiple items that address the four (4) Priority Areas listed above. These have included:

- 1) Review of weekly local newspaper listing of Church Services. Joyce Bridgman volunteered to be the KCC liaison with the newspapers and submitted information for their consideration and publication. During the course of the year it appeared that the newspapers would only include minimal information, sometimes only the church name, address and service time.
- 2) Website Redesign. The current KCC site was viewed as very static and outdated. In early 2012, Steven Bogue presented an overview of related items for the Board's education and consideration. The Board reviewed multiple sites in the interest of identifying attractive features that could be incorporated into the new KCC site. The Old South Church (Boston) site was seen as a good model. Ongoing meetings have focused on site organization and the accompanying text and photos (supplied by Prentice Stout). It is anticipated that the site will be operational in early Fall 2013.
- 3) Pew Cards. Were reviewed and revised during the year. Rev. Palmer, in his opening comments of the Sunday Service, encourages Visitors to complete and place a card in the Offertory Plate. In turn, the church office will send information about KCC to the individual/family.
- 4) Information Packet. The packet that had been in use for many years was reviewed. Rev. Palmer provided many suggested pieces that were discussed, edited and selected for the packets to be sent to Individuals who submitted Pew Cards and to be distributed during Prospective Member meetings.
- 5) Welcome Table. A Welcome Table is present in Fellowship Hall each Sunday, staffed by two volunteers who are available to answer questions and provide information to visitors. Rev. Palmer mentions the Welcome Table in his Sunday Service opening comments.
- 6) Prospective Members Meetings. The Board presents Meetings (after church) two to three times per year for individuals who want to learn more about KCC and who may be interested in becoming members. In turn, Rev. Palmer, in conversation with these individuals, sets dates for them to join the Church during a Sunday Service.

- 7) “Friends” for New Members. Implemented in 2012, this initiative is intended to provide New Members with a personal contact if they have any questions about Church happenings or ways to get involved in Church activities. Board Members are assigned to New Members upon their joining KCC. The Board Members make contact with New Members and offer to meet with them. In turn, Board Members will follow-up on a periodic basis through the first year.
- 8) Name Tags and Holder. The Board periodically reminds people to wear their Nametags. Order forms are available on the Harvest Table. With the construction assistance of Dave Cox, a Name Tag Holder was placed in Fellowship Hall.
- 9) Shepherding Program. With the interest in keeping in touch with Members who “are not seen in church for a while”, the Shepherding Program was initiated with the guidance of Rev. Palmer. A Board Sub-Group, led by Sandee Andrew, meets periodically to identify Members who “have not been seen”. In turn, they make a phone call to that Individual/Family, just to touch base. This outreach has been well received by those who have been called.

Board Members: Tom Butcher- Chair, Sandee Andrew, Susan Bogue, Susan Eriksen,  
Jim Findlay, Connie Fitzelle, Jaime Nelson, Andrea Richardson,  
Loretta Shaw (Registrar)

## KCC Membership Report July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

**Members as of July 1, 2012** **452**

Additions:

Confirmations	6
New Members	13

**Total Additions:** **19**

Losses:

Death	6
Transfer	2

**Total Losses:** **8**

**Members as of June 30, 2013** **463**

Baptisms	4
Marriages	2

Date

**Baptisms**

Ian Arthur Moore	September 9, 2012
Ethan Joseph Cummiskey	October 14, 2012
Liam William Metz	March 3, 2013
Ada Mae Kubicki	June 9, 2013

**Marriages**

Benjamin Kraus and Amy Driscoll	August 10, 2012
Daniel Brillat and Ava Iuliano	September 15, 2012

**New Members**

Judy Anderson	November 18, 2012
Andrew Hopewood	November 18, 2012
Katherine Hopewood	November 18, 2012
Barbara Richardson	November 18, 2012
Richard Richardson	November 18, 2012
Matthew Andrade	May 19, 2013
Dori Boardman	May 19, 2013
William Boardman	May 19, 2013
Herb Curtis	May 19, 2013
Chris Hiener	May 19, 2013
Brett Kenyon	May 19, 2013
Jessie Kenyon	May 19, 2013
Elizabeth White	May 19, 2013

**New Members (cont.)**

Confirmands:

Rachel Hiener		May 19, 2013
Ben Hubertus		May 19, 2013
Harrison Kenyon		May 19, 2013
Allison Lenox		May 19, 2013
Catherine Lenox		May 19, 2013
Joshua Remington		May 19, 2013

**Deaths**

Nancy Schock	non-member	August 9, 2012
Emilio Roxin		August 21, 2012
Janis Recher		September 8, 2012
Irene Hutton	non-member	January 3, 2013
Carolyn W. Shilling		January 28, 2013
William D. Metz		February 11, 2013
Mildred Thunberg	non-member	March 24, 2013
Margaret D. Fernsler		April 2, 2013
Bette Emig		June 25, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta H. Shaw  
Registrar

## **Board of Missions and Social Justice July 2012 - June 2013**

The goal of the Board of Missions is to learn more about community, region and world needs and to provide opportunities to work together as a congregation to do God's work in those areas. This report describes KCC's response to various issues and some future needs. We will continue to find ways for the congregation to be active participants in wider community connections.

Freddie Bettinger completed her Board service after serving as Chair and as Treasurer. In both roles and in funding and spearheading the Franz Hayes Memorial Mission Immersion Program, she was a creative, hard-working and inspiring Board member and will be missed. We are already looking forward to this year's Franz Hayes Project. We are happy to report that Christi Saurette has joined the Board.

### **MISSION PROJECTS:**

We continued Mission One from July to Thanksgiving to address hunger in Rhode Island by collecting weekly donations of healthy food, delivered alternately to Jonnycake Center and to South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. We collected and delivered fresh produce for Jonnycake Center's weekly "Farmers' Market."

We participated in the F.A.I.T.H. committee – faith-based contributors to the Jonnycake Center. We promoted the Empty Bowl event to benefit Jonnycake Center and the Lil' Cakes Baby Shower.

Helped with school supplies for local families in need (requested and coordinated by school social worker Christi Saurette) and provided a Christmas Giving Tree for SPNM and for local families.

Recruited Rev. Daehler Hayes for the Emig Lecture, focusing on Haiti.

Helped to coordinate and participated in the Franz Hayes Memorial Mission projects – continuing to help with Land Trust trail work at Biscuit City and adding volunteer painting and outdoor work at CANE Daycare Center.

We cooperated on "South Kingstown for Peace" with the Wakefield Rotary. Two of us attended the Beloved Community Potluck in connection with URI's Summer Nonviolence Training, which attracts participants from all over the world.

On several occasions, coordinated desserts for Storehouse free meals served free of charge at the Church of God in Wakefield.

We promoted and participated in two fund-raisers for Welcome House – the Walk for Shelter and the Strawberry Social.

We recruited a member of the congregation, Brett Kenyon, to act as liaison with S.C. Habitat.

We promoted KCC's third annual Thanksgiving Community Potluck, coordinated by Elizabeth Candas with help from many members of the congregation.

We connected with Job Corps in Exeter and hosted its director for an after-service session. KCC members are now involved with continued work with Job Corp to assist students there, and students from Job Corps helped with the Franz Hayes Mission project.

We are planning Nonviolence Training for KCC members in the fall with Sharon Key.

#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

We allocated our budget funds to Jonnycake Center, South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, The Center for the Study and Practice of Peace and Nonviolence, the RIUCC Haiti Taskforce, South County Habitat for Humanity, Thundermist and Hope Café. We used our SCRIP funds for additional financial assistance to local organizations and agencies – Thundermist, Jonnycake Center, and South County Habitat for Humanity, concentrating on health, hunger and housing. We promoted and managed special collections for Blankets+, Christmas, One Great Hour of Sharing and disaster relief for Hurricane Sandy.

#### COMMUNICATION:

Through articles in *The Spire* and in *Sunday Bulletins*, and in Deacons' announcements, we continued to keep the congregation informed and to encourage church-wide participation in mission projects. We missed the opportunity for Mission Moments in which to both describe and promote mission work and to put faces on the Board membership in order to encourage conversation about mission.

Our budget request for 2013-2014 was, once again, developed by identifying areas of concern – Housing, Hunger, Health, Peace and Nonviolence. We continued our long-term commitment to South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, retaining a line item for them.

Mission Board: Susan Berman, co-chair /secretary; Sue Davis, co-chair; Freddie Bettinger, treasurer; Doris Findlay, Cindy Buxton, Tina Letcher

## **Board of Christian Education Annual Report July 2012 – June 2013**

The Board of Christian Education had a very busy and successful year. The members included Barbara Hart, Lori Ann Hiener, Michael Salvadore Jr., Prentice Stout, and Susan Gallagher.

Alice Babcock was hired as the Church School Director and began in August. She quickly began meeting with church school teachers for the start of church school. The first day of church school was held on September 9, 2012 with a CE-sponsored open house prior to church school.

The following teachers were in place for the 2012-2013 school year:

Nursery: Nancy Gardner as a paid provider, and Tom Holland

PreK/K: Lori Ann Hiener and Andrea Richardson

Grades 1/2: Krista Reid and Susan Erikson

Grades 3/4/5: Amy Hubertus and Michael Lockwood

Grades 6/7/8: Mike Coffey and Christy Sheehy

Many church members volunteered to be a helper in the classrooms. This provided safe classrooms for both the teachers and the children. (See Church School Report for more information)

The Board presented all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders (and a few 4<sup>th</sup> graders) with Bibles, coordinated Children's Sunday on June 9<sup>th</sup>, planned the annual teacher appreciation brunch, and assisted in the annual Children's Christmas Pageant. This year the pageant occurred during a Sunday service which allowed all children to participate.

Jean Miller led two very successful Adult Education sessions with over thirty participants. In November/December, she led a discussion on Ephesians and during Lent a discussion on *The LAST WEEK: The Day-by Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem*, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

New this year, all children participated in the church school choir. Every Sunday after the children were dismissed from the church service they gathered in the Fireplace Room to sing a hymn or anthem. They would practice it for weeks and then would sing it for the introit on Sunday mornings approximately once every 4-6 weeks. Although all children sing during practice and sound beautiful, they don't all want to sing Sunday morning. This has been working well and will continue next year. We hope that parents will encourage their children to fully participate in the church school choir.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Ann Hiener  
Chairperson

## **Church School Annual Report July 2012 – June 2013**

It has been a very busy and successful year for the church school program. For the 2012-2013 school year, the Board chose to use a UCC curriculum titled “Gather Round”. This curriculum provided students with their own individual workbook as well as a resource guide with many different activity options for teachers.

There were several changes that were attempted during this school year.

Each week, the worship bulletin included an edition of Church School News which included a summary of what the children were learning in Church School as well as follow up activities that could be done at home.

Music became part of the church school program under the leadership of Lori Ann Hiener. The choir would practice each week after they left Worship Service and would sing as part of the Worship Service every 4-6 weeks.

Volunteers from the congregation were recruited to serve as classroom assistants. This provided additional supervision for the children while providing the opportunity for teachers to attend worship service.

The annual Children’s Christmas Pageant was presented on December 16, 2012 as part of the worship service. This allowed many children to participate.

Recognizing the importance of Communion, a new procedure was implemented this year that allowed grades 6/7/8 to remain in church for the entire worship service. All other children attended church school and were given the opportunity to return in time to participate in Communion.

The church school year concluded with the children conducting the Worship Service on June 9, 2013. Each class participated in a variety of ways including a presentation of a highlight of what they learned throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice C. Babcock  
Church School Director

## **Board of Fellowship Annual Report 2012/2014**

The Board of Fellowship has had a busy year. We have hosted funeral receptions for Jan Recher in October, Irene Hutton and Margaret Fernsler in January, Carol Shilling in February, and Bill Metz in March. On October 28 we celebrated Rev. Palmer's Installation with a reception. In November, board member Joanne Gyorgy organized the Advent Workshop.

We had our first Soup Sunday on January 27. It proved quite successful and we would like to have repeated this since Rev. Palmer had suggested that we do what had been successful in his former churches.

The Lenten Luncheon was a happy event in March, when 12 of our church ladies made delicious soups for some sixty lunches.

The most complicated event we conducted was the Progressive Dinner. Thanks to Brenda Yonkoske and help from former chairperson Mary Daly, over 100 diners who took part had a great evening.

We also managed to make sure greeters and coffee hour people were there every Sunday, and that our church notice appeared each week in the local papers. We were a hardworking group of ladies, and we wish the best to our successors.

Submitted by  
Ann Ross  
Board of Fellowship Chair

Fellowship Board Members:  
Ann Ross, Chair; Joyce Bridgman, Joanne Gyorgy, Tracy Heffron, Brenda Yonkoske

## **Annual Report- Flower Committee July 2012-June 2013**

The Flower Committee continued its weekly responsibilities of organizing the ordering of the floral arrangements by request and distributing the flowers in the sanctuary to those named in prayers. Each donor is required to pay \$50 for the arrangement. The payment is usually made by leaving a check in the collection plate or by mailing it to the office. The cost of the weekly arrangement is \$50 and our relationship with Kenyon's Florist continues to be positive. For the summer of 2012 the Flower Committee placed a green plant on the altar and did not provide weekly services. For the summer of 2013 the Flower Committee will once again provide a green plant for the altar. The Committee is also implementing the Carry In/Carry Out Summer Flower program. This will allow individuals to either bring in their own flower display or call Kenyon's to request an arrangement. If they choose to call Kenyon's they are billed directly \$50 for the arrangement.

The Flower Committee decorated the sanctuary and church for Christmas with our traditional garlands and wreaths for the first Sunday of Advent and the poinsettia display at the altar for Christmas services. A total of 30 plants were ordered at \$15 each (cost of \$11 from Boy Scouts) and those that were not taken by purchasers were distributed to others and to shut-ins. This year the Committee did the display with both red and white poinsettias.

The Flower Committee decorated the sanctuary for Easter with a display of lilies. The overall response to the return of the lily display was positive. Many encourage us to consider alternating a display of tulips and daffodils, and lilies in future years. A total of 30 plants for Easter 2013 were ordered at \$15 each (cost of \$11 from Boy Scouts) and those that were not taken by purchasers were distributed to others.

Total costs for the Flower Committee for July 2012-June 2013 were \$3388.00 and total revenue was \$2295.00 resulting in a loss of \$1093.00 for KCC. The Flower Committee does not feel that it had a true loss of \$1093, rather that donors are not labeling their checks as "flower donation" on the memo line when leaving their check in the collection plate. The Committee has had one or more donors for every week. The Committee will look into a better way of tracking payments made by the donors for the flowers. The Committee is also moving the remaining balance of the Bell-Yevich flower fund \$419.10 into the Committee account to zero out that account. Going forward the Committee continues to consider new ideas and ways to increase efficiency and promote the floral activities of our church.

Respectively submitted,

Patti Steere, Co-chair; Beth Asher, Co-chair, Jessie Kenyon, Carol Blanpied, Cindy Carraccia, Beth Curtis, Jee Lee, Sharon Alemany, Michelle Little, Lora Hahn- Schubert, Lynne Broderick  
Jamie Nelson

**Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase**  
**Report of the Cemeteries Committee**  
**May 8, 2013**

Background - The Cemeteries Committee supervises three cemeteries: Old Fernwood and Tower Hill belong to the Society, and the Peckham Family Cemetery belonging to that family. The Tower Hill Cemetery, on the site of the first church building in the history of the Kingston Congregational Church, had its first burial in 1719 and in 1944 the last one, Bernon E. Helme. Although inactive since then, it is still available for use. The Peckham Family Cemetery is restricted to use by members of that family, but is cared for by our committee in accordance with an agreement made with the late Dorothy Peckham who contributed \$5,000 to our endowment for that purpose. Old Fernwood is divided into two parts: the original section was given by Elisha Reynolds Potter in 1826 for use by members of this Society and of the church, and by people living within one mile of the church or of the cemetery. The extension of Old Fernwood, landscaped in the 1960's and put into use in the 1990's, was given by Herbert J. Wells in 1927 for use by members of this Society and of the church and their families.

2012 - 2013 Report - Chris Faella, caretaker for New Fernwood Cemetery, is employed to cover the routine maintenance around Old Fernwood and the Peckham Cemeteries. Ann Ross, a member of our committee, tends to the entrance. Tracy Heffron and Patricia Moore trim and advise on the many shrubs and trees. Scott Wallace continues to provide maintenance at the Tower Hill Cemetery.

On Sunday, May 20, 2012 the Fayerweather family under the leadership of Joyce Stevos and Nancy Goncalves cleaned all the Fayerweather monuments in the cemetery in preparation for their family reunion in Kingston on August 24.

Another major pruning and cutting of the trees and shrubs is happening this spring due to the winter storms. Five large trees needed to be cut. We have not heard a report yet from Applied Bio Systems who were hired last year by DOT to check the health of the amphibians living in the wetlands next to the road and cemetery.

During the past year (May 2012-April 2013) the following interments took place: David Heffron (3/24/12) was interred on August 18, 2012, Emilio Roxin who died on August 21, 2012 (interment 9/1/12), H. Ronald Hawksley - September 3, 2012 (interment - 9/7/12), and William D. Metz who died on February 11, 2013 - interred on May 2, 2013. Carolyn Whitmore Shilling (January 28, 2013) will be interred at a later date.

We mourn the loss of Bill Metz who served on and was chair of this committee for over sixty years. He kept the records, wrote the letters, and poured the cement.

Our desire continues to have the cemeteries in every respect places of honor to the dead and of comfort to their relatives and friends. Lots remain available in both cemeteries with contributions to the endowment fund. Rates were raised on September 1, 2007 to \$600 for non-members and \$450 for members. Reservations may be made for future use, and a number of families have elected to have monuments placed on their lots even many years in advance of actual use, thus easing the burden on the family at a time of great sorrow. All reserved lots continue to be held in ownership by the Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase.

Respectfully submitted: Ann Ross, Jim Ross, Elizabeth McNab, Richard Shaw, and Jane Skogley