

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

Annual Report
January 2011 – June 2012

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)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor	1
President	3
Board of Deacons	4
Music Board	5
Music Director	6
Board of Trustees	7
Treasurer's Report	7
Nominating Committee	8
Registrar's Report	9
Stewardship	11
Board of Missions and Social Action	12
Board of Christian Education	13
Women's Fellowship	14
Flower Committee	15
Cemeteries Committee	16
Prayer Chain	17
Treasurer's Report 7/1/2011 - 6/30/2012	
Ballot for 2012-2013	

Annual Report of the Senior Pastor March 1 – June 30, 2012

In the four months I have served as Pastor, I have lived with a glad and hopeful heart, as I have watched a great church gather its strength and look to the future with confident faith. And I have lived with a constant sense of gratefulness –for all our people as a congregation, for each of our people as individuals, and for all the remarkable groups of our people who preserve the great strength and beauty of this church’s long heritage, even as we create new possibilities from the opportunities and challenges before us.

I have sought to do my parts of that mutual ministry, first, by making every effort to get to know our people, as many and as well as possible in a short time. I have attended most of the meetings of our boards and committees and been inspired by the focus and energy that is evident in these key institutions of KCC. I have established cordial and collegial working relationships with our outstanding staff, who inspire me daily with their excellent service and their constant devotion to this church. And I have had conversations with many of our leaders whose reliable insights and advice have helped me understand a great deal that I need to know in order to do my work in timely and helpful ways.

I have devoted myself to the worship and spiritual life of our church, seeking to preach sermons and lead worship in ways that will speak to the minds and hearts of all of us on Sunday mornings. In this I have been inspired by the devotion of our people to this most essential part of our life together, not only by our faithful attendance at worship, but also by the ways we all engage with each other, lifting ourselves together in a spirit of mutual blessing and encouragement.

Our worship time, our praise and prayer and especially our wonderful choir and other great music, is our welcome to guests and newcomers, our invitation to them to unite with us in the beloved community. And it has been inspiring to all of us to welcome so many to our church, to see old friends returning, to share worship with our many children, and to send our young ones off to our excellent Church School and Youth Groups and our remarkable teachers and leaders.

I have also committed much of my time and energy to the pastoral aspects of ministry, responding to the extraordinary number of pastoral situations and needs that have come to my attention since I arrived. In all my years as a pastor, I have never encountered so large a number of such pastoral situations, so I have needed to adjust other commitments in order to respond as best I can to the cares and concerns of our people.

In this regard I am encouraged to see how very many of our people commit ourselves to the pastoral care of our congregation, making calls and visits, giving rides and helping where we can, holding each other in our thoughts and prayers. Our people understand that we are the human hands of God’s tender mercies and we carry on that work with good cheer and full hearts.

When there is so much to learn and do, so many names to learn, so many people and groups doing so many things, so much history to learn and future to help prepare for, the key challenge is to make wise decisions about priorities and allocation of time and energy. I have been ably assisted in making these decisions by many of our people, who have been kind and wise and understanding, who have given me every assistance I have asked, and helped me build relationships of trust and good will along the way. I could not ask for more than the people of this church have readily and thoughtfully given.

I believe it is also important to remember that I was greatly aided in my work even before I became Pastor by the extraordinary members of the Pastoral Search Committee, whose long and selfless service included instructing me on a wide range of matters essential to the life of this congregation. We all stand immeasurably in their debt and should remember their outstanding service with continuing gratefulness.

So I bless God for all of us, for all we are and can yet be together, in the name of our Christ, by the power of our God, and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Remembering the one who heralded among us the Kingdom of God, let us devote our lives in the hope that we may further that great work here in Kingston, and as far beyond as the will of God may extend our labors!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. L. Weldon Palmer

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL MESSAGE January 2011 - June 2012

As I prepared to write this message I went back to take a look at the words I wrote for the year that ended December 31, 2010. Here are two paragraphs I wrote more than 1 1/2 years ago:

Of the five strategic areas identified in the Strategic Plan we have made significant progress in three. First, the by-laws have been overhauled and are currently under review by the Council. They will be presented to the congregation in the new year. They address church leadership structure and process. Second, actions and activities by the Boards, Committees and Interim Pastor have improved our role and collaborative relationships in the community. Third, realigning the church fiscal year to better match the church calendar is expected to greatly assist stewardship growth in the 2011 and beyond.

In the new year the work of approving amended by-laws, calling a settled pastor, expanding our presence in the community and implementing a new stewardship plan and philosophy will continue to gobble up time, energy and emotions. Strategic areas still requiring attention include addressing membership growth, assimilation and retention, and Christian education across the lifespan. We must remain vigilant, have patience and confidence, and most of all – trust in God to lead us to work together for good.

Through the grace of God and the diligent hard work of every member of our boards and committees and the support of the congregation we achieved much on the list of strategic goals. I believe Kingston Congregational Church is in a much better place, fiscally and spiritually, then it was at the end of 2010. Following up my 2010 comments there are some items of note.

- ⤴ We approved the by-laws (although as a dynamic document we must remember they require a periodic review and can be amended as necessary).
- ⤴ The search committee brought us a new senior pastor with energy and enthusiasm for the future of our church.
- ⤴ Our recent stewardship campaign has been the most successful in years.
- ⤴ We approved a budget that restored the salary cuts previously imposed on our hard working and dedicated staff and included funds to hire a church school director.
- ⤴ Membership growth is being actively pursued by the new Board of Membership. It has already made great strides at finding new members, getting in touch with folks we have not seen in a while and doing the hard work of getting new faces involved in the routine and activities of our congregation.

As always, the challenges of maintaining and upgrading our wonderful facilities will be forever present as will the work of all the boards and committees. What we do in the community for others and what we do for ourselves provides us with endless opportunities for involvement. It is my hope that everyone can find some small way to help, thereby easing the load for all. It is not necessary to be a board or committee member to be of assistance. Most projects simply call for some short term support. Please find something that interests you and join in.

We are a congregation filled with talented and caring members who come together in common worship, fellowship and service at this place called Kingston Congregational Church UCC. Let us maintain our optimism about the days and years ahead, share the joy of life and keep the faith.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11.1)

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas H. Brillat, President, KCC Council

Board of Deacons Annual Report 2011

The Board of Deacons had a busy year with the annual changing of faces-goodbyes and new beginnings. We said a heart felt goodbye to our Interim Pastor, Pat Liberty, and many thanks for a job well done under very tough circumstances. We welcomed our new minister Weldon Palmer with open arms.

Throughout the year we were guided by Reverend Pat as many changes were implemented. Pat continued her work teaching classes, caring for the infirmed and offered meaningful services every Sunday.

The Board of Deacons spent many hours reviewing the evaluation process for our Pastor and Director of Music. These tools can now be implemented with the arrival of our new minister. We also conducted an exit interview with Reverend Pat which offered some very useful insight into the future of Kingston Congregational Church.

The Deacons continued their service to the congregation by attending to funerals, recruiting and guiding ushers, greeters, lay readers and coffee hour hosts; interacting with various committees and boards; and responding as best as possible to the spiritual and worship needs of the congregation.

We again have been blessed to have so many of our congregation leading us in worship this year. Jim Aukerman, Reverend Bill Bartels, Enrico Garzilli, Paul Jacobs, Frank Lenox, Mike McMahon and Craig Urian were some of the guest preachers.

Members of the 2011 Board of Deacons were Craig Urian, Linda Mendillo, Dottie Leduc, Todd Gregory, James Findlay, Louise Pearson, Michael Wakefield, Norma Hagist, Kevin Pelton, Tracy Heffron, Beth Asher and Michael McMahon.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael W. McMahon, Chair

Board of Music Annual Report January 2011 – June 2012

The KCC music program continues to be blessed with the talents of the Director of Music – Dr. Enrico Garzilli: as accomplished senior and junior choir director and accompanist, composer, vocalist, pianist, keyboardist, organist, and conductor – anything and everything musical.

Fall 2011 music was enhanced with special Advent selections and the singing of traditional carols at the annual Christmas candlelight service. Spring 2012 was focused on the liturgical music of Ash Wednesday, Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, two Easter Services and Pentecost.

This fiscal year started off with a significant change to the music program at KCC. On May 15, 2011 in the prior fiscal year, the Congregation voted to change the then Music Committee to the Board of Music. This coincided with the rewriting of the Director of Music's job description which was finalized in October. In August the choir robes were dry-cleaned and subsequently, sewing repairs were made by Norma Hagist to repair minor damages to some robes. The first annual Holiday Concert was held on Dec. 3rd, was well attended, and provided some much needed financial support to KCC and the music program.

This year, the KCC music inventory of instruments was enhanced by the purchase of a Kurzveil keyboard. Several congregants have commented on the beneficial addition of this instrument to the music program, especially to enhance some choir music and Enrico's music response to the sermon. Through Enrico, the choir continued its open invitation to anyone wishing to participate and he put out a flyer to that effect in April. Enrico also was instrumental in encouraging the Christian Education board to implement a plan to include hymn singing by the children. The children led the procession into the Palm Sunday service singing *All Glory, Laud and Honor*.

A new musical outreach to attendees of the Kingston Fair on May 19th was spearheaded by Board of Music member Mark Tortolani. Almost continuously from 11 am to 1 pm pianist and composer Frank Livolsi entertained art enthusiasts who were enjoying the art displayed in the Fellowship Hall with his ragtime compositions. Art by KCC members Mark Tortolani, Ann Ross and Sharon Alemany was tastefully displayed around the hall and enjoyed by fairgoers while they were also enjoying the piano music. Organized by Mark, in conjunction with our talented Director of Music, Enrico Garzilli a well received music concert was performed in the Sanctuary at 1 pm to fifty fairgoers. Two accomplished guests, classical guitarist Peter Griggs and soprano Erica Petrocelli also performed at the concert. Mark and the ad hoc KCC Kingston Fair committee would like to make the addition of music an annual event in conjunction with the Women's Fellowship bake sale and the Trustees' barbeque. Mark also collated and reported on the results of a favorite hymn survey of the congregation conducted in February. *Amazing Grace* was the all around favorite.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair – Gary Harlow

Current Members – Helen Behrens, Joanna Burkhardt and Mark Tortolani

Former Members – Diana Geisler, Patricia Moore and Bob Saurette

Annual Report 2012

Music Director/Organist

I very much enjoy being organist and music director here at Kingston Congregational Church. I believe this past year again has truly been 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 occasions such as Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and Easter. Lori Ann Hiener and Beverly Stringer lead the singers very admirably. I also meet with both choirs every week.

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 Scott Washburn play trumpet 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 2011 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 was in evidence in the May Kingston Fair in which the Music Board and all the Boards of the Church under the leadership of Mark Tortolani participated.

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 a magnificent repertoire of classical choral pieces at St. Francis Church in Wakefield. In November of last year, we performed at the Towers in Narragansett. 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 Gary Harlow and the music committee 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

Trustee's Annual Report January 2011 – June 2012

This year has been challenging. We re-glazed, painted, and had new storm windows installed on the first floor of the Church House. We then received a grant from the Potter Fund to help complete the window project on the second floor. The toilets in the handicapped rest room and men's room were upgraded to decrease water usage. Work on the kitchen continued. The replacement of cushions in the Sanctuary was started and the balcony level finished. The South side of the Sanctuary was painted. The Pastor's study was upgraded to meet Safe Church requirements and new furniture was purchased. Upgraded the Pastor's furniture. The dishwasher serviced - the repairman's comment was, "It's a beauty". The office equipment was upgraded and saved some money. We also hung a map of the world in Fellowship Hall to help us gain perspective.

There would be no way to do the job without the following. Many thanks to: Pat Cox, Audrey Hallberg, Wayne Svehlik, Steve White, Doug Kraus, Steve Davis, and Dave Heffron who will be greatly missed.

This year we are looking to finish the storm window project, complete the cushion project with help from the Congregation, continue work on the kitchen, paint the building, improve the choir robe storage, just to name a few of our projects.

David "Rem" Remington, Chair Board of Trustees

Treasurer's Annual Message June 30, 2012

During the six month period from 12/31/10 through 6/30/2011 there was considerable confusion regarding pledging, as a result pledge and plate income was \$10,500 under budget, other income was over budget by \$3,000 and total income was \$7,500 under budget. Total expenses were \$1,500 under budget resulting in a \$6,000 operating deficit for that six month period.

The fiscal year ending 6/30/2012 ended on a more positive note. Pledge and plate income was \$4,600 over budget and total income was \$8,600 over budget. On the expense side total expenses were \$5,500 under budget resulting in a \$11,800 operating surplus for the year ending 6/30/2012.

As of 6/30/12 there was \$40,700 in the checking account, \$24,300 in a money market account and a CD in the amount of \$51,000 for a total of \$116,000. Restricted funds amounted to \$71,800 leaving a \$44,200 unrestricted reserve.

For a more detailed account of the Treasurer's Message please refer to the Treasurer's Report, the footnotes and comments at the bottom of each page. If there are any questions about the report or other Treasurer issue, please don't hesitate to ask.

Submitted by,

Richard Geisler, Treasurer

Nominating Committee Report January 2011 – June 2012

The Nominating Committee began meeting in the 3rd quarter of 2011 to review the many positions that needed to be filled. As a result of the revised By-Laws changing to fiscal year ending on 6/30/12 we asked members to extend their term by 6 months.

The Boards and Committees were expanded. There were 3 new Boards added (Board of Finance, Board of Membership, Board of Fellowship) and one new Committee (Planned Giving Committee). We had to review the current ballot and recognize all members who had terms expiring on 6/30/12 and fill those positions as well as fill the openings on the new Boards and Committees.

With the addition of the new Committees and Boards, there were 97 total positions to be filled. Currently there are still 10 openings on Boards and Committees that need to be filled.

1. 2 Assistant Treasurers that are to be appointed by the Board of Finance
2. 1 Parliamentarian that is to be Appointed by Council
3. 3 Committee of Delegates that are nominated by the Leadership Development Committee
4. 1 opening on the Investment Committee that are nominated by the Leadership Development Committee
5. 2 openings on the Leadership Development Committee that
6. 1 opening on the Planned Giving Committee to be nominated by the Leadership Development Committee

The new By-Laws state that there should be 5 members on most Committees. They also state that there should be a staggered expiration of terms with 20%-40% of terms ending each year so that the entire group does not have terms that all expire at once. With the addition of the new Boards and Committees this was not possible to achieve. If Council votes on a change to the By-Laws for these new Boards and Committees so that expiration dates can be staggered, that would solve the problem of mass expirations every 3 years. The good news is that we were able to get many new members actively involved on the Committees and Boards. Many of these new members were young which will help serve our needs in future years.

Thank you to all Committee members and all Board members for their dedication and support. Thank you to the Leadership Development Committee for all of their work. Karin Aukerman, Scott Alemany, Ann Ross and Nancy Tortolani

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Asher
Leadership Development Committee Chair

KCC Membership Report

Members as of January 1, 2011 **446**

Additions:

Confirmations	13
New Members	18
Reactivated Members	2

Total Additions: **33**

Losses:

Death	9
Transfer	7
Inactive	11

Total Losses: **27**

Members as of June 30, 2012 **452**

Baptisms	4
Marriages	1

Date

Baptisms

Genevieve Grace Coleman	February 27, 2011
Stella Daryl Weber	August 14, 2011
Lucas Henry Walker Chappell	October 9, 2011
Annelise Hope Coleman	June 17, 2012

Marriages

Sarah Breckenridge and Michael Wright	June 26, 2011
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New Members

David Barwise	May 1, 2011
Danielle Winter	May 1, 2011
Carolyn Eastberg	October 16, 2011
John Eastberg	October 16, 2011
Susan Eriksen	October 16, 2011
Jaime Nelson	October 16, 2011
Brenda Yonkoske	October 16, 2011
Greg Yonkoske	October 16, 2011
Cynthia Anderson	May 13, 2012
Eric Anderson	May 13, 2012
Steven Bogue	May 13, 2012
Susan Bogue	May 13, 2012
Jennifer Coleman	May 13, 2012
L. Weldon Palmer	May 13, 2012
Charles Sweeney	May 13, 2012

Clare Sweeney	May 13, 2012
Meera Viswanathan	May 13, 2012
Eric Widmer	May 13, 2012

New Members (cont.)

Confirmands:

Jessica Elliott	May 22, 2011
Christopher Lenox	May 22, 2011
Kayla McMahon	May 22, 2011
Alex Quarella	May 22, 2011
Sarah White	May 22, 2011
Christina Yonkoske	May 22, 2011

Kara Bissonnette	May 20, 2012
Jackie Karpowicz	May 20, 2012
Kristen Karpowicz	May 20, 2012
Alexander Kleckner	May 20, 2012
Tai Marino	May 20, 2012
Emma Pelton	May 20, 2012
Matthew Sheehy	May 20, 2012

Deaths

Phyllis Rogers		February 2, 2011
Hazel Eileen Stafford		February 16, 2011
Frank G. Wiener		February 16, 2011
Margaret Gilbert		February 18, 2011
Edward J. Carney		May 16, 2011
Jacques B. Perrolle		June 24, 2011
Rudolph Recher		August 23, 2011
John Mansfield Ferry		November 24, 2011
David Heffron		March 24, 2012
Margaret E. Beliveau	non-member	May 10, 2012
Kenneth Warren	non-member	June 23, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta H. Shaw
Registrar

Board of Stewardship 2011-2012 Annual Report

The Board of Stewardship is proud to be able to report on two successful Stewardship campaigns in the past eighteen months. In January of 2011, we kicked off the first Stewardship campaign aligned with the church's new July to June fiscal, and introduced a new campaign process through the guidance and encouragement of interim Pastor Pat Liberty. Looking at the need to provide funds to maintain and improve our church's programs and building, our small board recruited a series of volunteers and organized visits to many church members to encourage continued support for our church, to discuss the many changes and improvements Pastor Pat and church leadership was implementing, and to prepare the path for a new pastor to join our church with a robust, active stewardship effort. Weldon has told us on many occasions how impressed he is with our Stewardship effort, and our results speak to a thriving, growing church.

The process we have used for the past two campaigns includes appointment of an honorary chairperson (Rev. Jack Whitehead in 2011, Linda and Angelo Mendillo in 2012) to speak at our campaign brunch (wonderfully organized by Sharon Davis and Sue Buntz), recruitment of volunteers to conduct the visits, training to provide all our visitors with information and support so that the visits go smoothly even for our shy visitors, testimonials provided by members during church services, and support from the pastor. As Weldon began his tenure at Kingston Congregational this spring, he jumped right into our Stewardship campaign, dedicating sermons and discussion to support our already-begun campaign.

The goals of the visits changed a little this year; in 2011 we had a strong emphasis on letting our members know about changes and improvements in the church: how the new bylaws were leading to a better church, about new boards (such as Membership) that would be starting and meeting longstanding needs. In 2012, with the church's momentum more evident and with our settled pastor installed, we focused on meeting our fellow members and letting our membership know what the needs are, so that the austerity of recent years could begin to be repaired. The final Stewardship Campaign pledge total for the 2012-2013 church year, updated through June 30th, is \$257,202, an increase of over 7% from the previous year, and an amount sufficient to restore past staff pay cuts and provide a small raise for the upcoming year, maintain our church, and fund expanded activity for many of our boards and committees.

The members of the Board of Stewardship in 2012 were: Clark Bridgman, Tom Heald, David Cann, Chris Little, Sue Kermes, Paul Jacobs, and Karin Aukermann, with considerable support from other interested parties such as our Visitation Co-chairs (Ron Stevens in 2011 and Steve Davis in 2012), Ann Lenox (who supported Karin Aukermann as our "working chair", the point person to lay out all the required tasks), Ken Kermes, and of course Pastors Pat and Weldon.

Board of Mission and Social Justice January 2011 – May 2012

This report covers activities during a year and a half in order to comply with the new by-laws passed in 2010. At that time the former Peace and Justice and Environmental task force groups became an integral part of the Board of Mission and Social Justice.

Early in 2011 we held a Board Retreat led by Pastor Pat Liberty. Those discussions led us to develop our budget by identifying “areas of concern”. Those are: Housing, Hunger, Environmental Issues, Health and Peace and Non-Violence. KCC’s commitment to South Providence Neighborhood Ministries continues as a separate area of concern as the organization addresses many of the issues listed above.

KCC members have also responded to local, national and international concerns beyond the budgeted dollars. Local projects included the use of Fair Trade Coffee at coffee hour and Fair Trade Chocolates sold by confirmands and KCC teens; a pot luck Thanksgiving dinner that brought together 92 people from around our community; the first Franz Hayes Memorial project at the nearby Biscuit City Preserve. Food collections and holiday gifts for families of the Peace Dale Jonnycake Center, baking desserts for the local Friday night Storehouse meals for the hungry, and participation in the Walk for Shelter to raise money for Welcome House were also in response to local needs. The packing of Emergency Clean-up Buckets in response to the Munson, MA area tornado; money collected for One Great Hour of Sharing and for Blanket Sunday were in collaboration with the Regional UCC office. There was active participation by many KCC members in the national UCC 11-11-11 Mission 1 Campaign. And the Emig Lecture by Teny Gross brought our annual Non-Violence and Peace lecture. In June 2012, Mission Board members and others in the congregation helped with the interdenominational Strawberry Festival fundraiser for Welcome House.

The objective of the Board has been to make mission central to the congregation as a whole, and many KCC individuals and families participated in these projects as integral mission work within the church community and beyond the scope of the Board membership. We have been both a Mission Board and a congregation learning and working together to do God’s work in our community, region and in our world.

Board of Missions: Freddie Bettinger, Chair; Susan Berman, Cindy Buxton, Elizabeth Candas, Sue Davis, Doris Findlay, Carol MacKenzie

Board of Christian Education Annual Report January 2011 – June 2012

The start of 2011 began with a new member, Ms. Freddie Bettinger who filled in Mary Cole's slot. The remaining members for 2011 were: Barbara Hart, Lori Ann Hiener, Michael Salvadore Jr., Prentice Stout, and Susan Gallagher. The Board met once a month during the months of January-June 2011 and started meeting again in the fall of 2011 through June 2012.

Adult Education activities for the year began in the fall of 2011 with the Reverend Pat Liberty conducting various Bible study groups and discussions.

The first day of church school was held on September 11, 2011 with a CE-sponsored open house prior to church school. Teacher training and safe church training was conducted prior to the start of church school. The following teachers were in place for the 2011-2012 school year:

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

PreK/K: Lori Ann Hiener and Andrea Richardson

Grades 1/2: Jen Jensen and Krista Reid

Grades 3/4/5: Michelle Davis and Faye Boudreaux-Bartels

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

The CE Board also volunteered to be "roamers" during church school. This job was to ensure children were directed to the appropriate places, checked on the teachers to see if they needed help, and collected attendance records. The curriculum for the 2011-2012 year was the continuation of UCC's "Seasons of the Spirit". For the 2012-2013 school year, the Board has chosen a UCC curriculum titled "Gather Round". This curriculum will provide students with their own individual workbook and we hope that it will have a more user-friendly format for the younger students.

The CE Board sponsored a few activity times instead of church school and also assisted Rev. Pat Liberty with the Christmas Eve pageant. The Board presented 3rd graders with Bibles at the beginning of the year, helped promote a trip to the **Heifer Learning Center at Overlook Farm, in Rutland, Massachusetts**, helped with coordinating Children's Sunday on June 10, teacher appreciation brunch, and incorporated some music into the church school curriculum.

We were excited to have the budget to hire a new part-time Church School Director and have begun the process of writing a job description and advertising. The goal is to have a new person in place as soon as possible.

We finished the year with some of the Board not returning. They are Freddie Bettinger and I, as chairperson. The Board looks forward to a new year as we hope to get a new church school director and relieve some of the duties we have had to do in this interim period.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Michelle Davis, Chairman

Women's Fellowship Annual Report January 2011 – June 2012

KCC Women's Fellowship, open to all church women members and friends continued its mission in 2011-2012 to provide friendship, support and nurture to each woman's faith journey; gather together for education, entertainment and enjoyment and donate time, effort and money to projects which benefit our church, our community and our world. Fall began programs for regathering, devotions and support, plus keeping abreast of international needs and issues through the year. Jean Miller and Pat Liberty spoke about their volunteer efforts with Hospice in Romania, Don Hermes spoke on environmental issues in Alaska and Jim Buxton shared his insights from his recent trip to Qatar and Bahrain. An overflow crowd was peppered with folks who also shared their experiences in that part of the Middle East. Fall projects included the holiday Gingerbread House party and baking/selling Christmas cookies at the musical program along with our cookie and gift sales after church services. Our major spring goal was completing and sending baby, school and hygiene kits to Church World Service for assistance during disasters in the U.S. and abroad. We ended the year with our bake sale at Kingston Fair and enjoying ourselves at the June Ice Cream Social/Annual Meeting.

We raised and donated \$5000.00 to various missions as well as contributing to the KCC sanctuary cushion fund, providing assistance to both middle school and junior high programming plus summer conference scholarships for youth and prayer shawls to seniors and confirmands.

Thank you to everyone who donated, baked, worked and helped us do all this!

Special thanks is due our Board members: Bev Buchert, Ruth Fiddes, Canna Falby, Cindy Buxton, and Carolyn Barwise along with our project chairs: Helen Rowe-Drake, Ann Ross, Cindy Dowgiallo and Loretta Shaw, Jan Kraus, Nancy Ross and Connie Fitzelle. Special appreciation goes to those members presenting devotions and hostessing for our meetings. Invaluable service was provided by our regular callers: Carolyn Barwise, Delight Carpenter, Gerri Davis, Ruth Fiddes, Kennie Geary, Tracy Heffron, Ann Ross, Tina Letcher, Carrie Nally, Helen Rowe-Drake, Jane Skogley and Phyllis Whitehead.

REMEMBER YOU, YOU and YOU are members and are invited to provide your information to include in our yearly program book. Call or email Helen-Rowe Drake, our editor, to be included in the next booklet: 789-8910 or luckystarllamas@verizon.net.

Respectfully submitted, Doris Findlay and Gerri Davis

Flower Committee Annual Report January 2011 – June 2012

The Flower Committee continued its weekly responsibilities of organizing the ordering of the floral arrangements by request and by distributing the flowers in the sanctuary to those named in prayers. We replaced the memorial flower ordering card found in the pews with a fuchsia colored one to draw attention and we placed announcements throughout the year in the Spire and Sunday bulletins to encourage donorship. This has increased interest in new donors and has improved the participation by the congregation. The cost of the weekly arrangement is \$50 and our relationship with Kenyon's Florist continues to be positive. Previously the flower committee placed an arrangement of green plants on the altar for the summer and did not provide weekly services but due to the number of requests that we had for this past summer, we will go forward in 2011 with our standard weekly procedures.

The flower committee decorated the sanctuary for Easter with a display of multicolored tulips and daffodils. The historical lily display needed to be changed due to allergies of Pastor Pat and the overall response to the new display was very upbeat. Many encourage us to consider in future years a display of tulips, daffodils and lilies. A total of 54 plants were ordered at \$15 each (cost of \$12) and those that were not taken by purchasers were distributed to others and to shut-ins.

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 27 plants were ordered at \$15 each (cost of \$11) and those that were not taken by purchasers were distributed to others and to shut-ins.

Total costs for the flower committee for 2011/2012 was \$3541.19 and total revenue was \$3755.00 resulting in a profit of \$213.81 for Kingston Congregational Church.

The committee purchased a new paper cutter which was needed due to the previous one being dull and no one to sharpen it.

A complete updating of the manual depicting all activities required by the flower committee was accomplished in 2010 and in addition to the hard copy kept in the flower cabinet, there is an electronic version. The weekly reports of flower requests are now done electronically. A standard monthly template was developed and proved to be most efficient for committee members and for the office.

Going forward, the committee continues to consider new ideas and ways to increase efficiency and promote the floral activities of our church.

Respectively submitted,
2012 Kingston Congregational Flower Committee
Nancy Tortolani, Co-chair
Beth Asher, Co-chair

Flower Committee Members: Carol Blanpied, Sue Buntz, Beth Curtis, Jee Lee, Michelle Little, Lora Hahn-Schubert,
Patti Steere, Jane Skogley

Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase
Report of the Cemeteries Committee
May 9, 2012

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.

2011 - 2012 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. David Heffron actively supported their efforts. Scott Wallace continues to provide maintenance at the Tower Hill Cemetery.

A major pruning of the trees was undertaken this year. Because of the 138 revamping project Applied Bio Systems was hired by DOT to check the health of the amphibians living in the wetlands next to the road and cemetery. Drift nets and pit traps have been installed. We have asked for a full report on the project when it is completed.

During the past year (May 2011-April 2012), one member of this Society and the church has been interred in the cemetery: Jean W. Swann died in California on 11/29/2011 in California and was interred on March 31, 2012. David Heffron who died on 3/24/12 will be interred at a later date. From January 2011- April 2011 two members of this Society and the church have been interred in the cemetery: Hazel Eileen Sammis Stafford died on 2-16-11 and Frank George Wiener also on 2-16-11.

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
William D. Metz, Chairman

Prayer Chain Report January 2011 – June 2012

Our Prayer Chain links (each in own home) responded to 225 KCC requests and to 293 loved ones of KCC requesting prayer support from our prayer chain.

If you would like to be a link joining our current 14 links, please contact Carol Shilling, coordinator.

To request prayer, contact Lou Pearson, Delight Carpenter or Carol Shilling.

The KCC Prayer Chain started in 1979.