

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

Annual Report
July 2018 – June 2019



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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Pastor's Annual Report 2018 – 2019

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

I arrived at King Cong on Saturday, September 1 to move my belongings into the Pastor's Study and was determined to find a way to make it more cozy and inviting. The first person to greet me was Maureen White and her generosity of time and talent and the immediate improvement once we moved furniture around and out made me feel welcome and energized. That day was a preview of the kindness and generosity shown by so many of you as we have ministered together this year. I cannot begin to list the names of folk who have given incredible time and talent to grow, improve and enhance the church structure, the boards and committees, the nurture of our children and teens and care of the congregation. Many of you who were weary when I arrived, geared back up, rolled up your sleeves and the results are quite breathtaking. Your faith that spurred you into action has reinforced what I knew to be true before I came.... that God does indeed have plans for King Cong... plans to prosper you and plans to give you hope and a future.

Some highlights of this year (and these are only highlights):

- Church School and CE Board – Continued Church School with help from Jonathan Lewis, the Church School teachers and reinstated the CE Board with Jean Miller as Chair
- Along with Sarah Ilgenfritz, who is working toward her Gold Star in Girl Scouts, instituted family events for all ages.... Game Nights, Trunk or Treat. The Church School classrooms and supply rooms were cleaned and organized
- I instituted regular office hours, met with members and held formal monthly staff meetings and in between, informal meetings (in Shirley's office which are lots of fun)!
- Expanded worship opportunities, added a second Christmas Eve Worship, Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve worship services and a full Holy Week schedule. Hoping to add evening monthly worship next year.
- Led a Confirmation Class of eight of our young people along with Frank Lenox and Amy Hubertus. The highlight was an overnight at Irons' Homestead with Frank and me as leaders.
- Expanded our presence in the URI Community, and served as a member of the University Chaplains Association. Cooperating and working actively with my colleagues to expand King Cong's outreach to the URI community.
- Helped the Christian Education Board to post the job description for Church School/Communications Director in appropriate venues, reviewed resumes with the Board and after calling Michelle Girasole to the position (for which we are truly thankful) have hopefully helped to acclimate and support her in her ministry.
- Have been blessed to baptize, confirm our children and blessed to lead memorial and funeral services for beloved ones who have passed on this year.
- Through visitation of our ill and homebound, I've experienced great joy at having deep and inspiring conversations.

These are just some of the many ways that you and I have ministered to one another and to the wider community. We have made great strides in my favorite phrase, “enlivening, enhancing, inspiring, empowering community.” We have much to be thankful for and I look forward to moving forward and using this next year to intentionally help you more fully prepare for your permanent Pastor. So get ready to reflect, dream, pray, hope, and joyfully prepare hearts and minds for the great things that God has in store for you!

One more thing... Before I end this report I want to add a special thank you to the Board of Deacons who have led worship, supported and ministered to you and also to me. Also, I have said before and will say many more times, this is the best staff I’ve ever worked with! They work hard, show incredible kindness and patience, are always ready to help and are just loads of fun!

Rev. Sharon Ann Hope, Interim Pastor

President's Report July 2018 to June 2019, a year of change.

We had many changes this year. Our new interim pastor, Sharon Hope, has certainly brought new energy into our church to help us look at our church's ministry together in new ways. As a church family, we need to look at ourselves every so often and if we need to change, to do so.

Part of the change this past year was that we created a new part time communications position to help us reach out using the varied methods technology has to offer in the 21st Century. Michelle Girasole has aptly filled that new position. Michelle will help us so we may reach out to our local community via internet and using other forms of social media. From now on, we will let people know about the many events at KCC and invite them to attend and participate in our shared church life and ministry. I know she will help us to make great strides in the near future.

After many years of discussion, the kitchens were finally renovated this year. I want to thank the Kitchen Committee and the Trustees for their countless hours of planning, attending meetings, getting quotes, hiring tradesmen, and supervising the installation of the new electricity, plumbing, cabinets and tiling. They also rolled up their own sleeves and did some of the demolition work and painting. The renovations were on time and on budget. Our two new kitchens are a welcomed change to our church life which should help us support many of the events that will be hosted at our church for years into the future.

Next year, I will call on the Board of Finance and the Investment Committee to review the long term financial health of the church with an eye to addressing the issues brought about by the aging demographics of our church family. We will need to explore the issues of both long and short term financial health of the church.

We are now in the process of looking for a new settled pastor. Hopefully, in the upcoming year we will attract some great applicants and hire a new pastor. Our interim pastor has certainly proved to be a great model and inspiration to us to get excited about our church and the great things we can do together. As we seek to hire a new pastor, we should be looking for someone who can help lead us through change and to grow as a church family so we may better serve our mutual ministry in our community.

I want to thank the many contributions of all our Boards and Committees this past year. In so many ways, the board members help set the pace for our church year. I hope to count on them next year.

As we enter another year of change, I hope to count on your support so we may succeed in hiring a new pastor and to continue to fulfill our church's ministry.

Submitted by Jeff Richardson

Annual Report from the Board of Deacons, July 2018—June 2019

Board Members: Susan Berman (Co-Chair), Charley Sweeney (Co-Chair), Margaret Bradley (Recording Secretary), Joan Henderson, Dottie Leduc, Linda Mendillo, JoAnn Pillar, Dave Remington, Nancy Ross and Clare Sweeney.

The Deacons are sincerely grateful to our Interim Pastor, Reverend Sharon Ann Hope, who agreed to be on call last summer after Rev. Palmer's resignation in order to provide for pastoral care, baptisms, and funerals, as well as conducting some of our summer services. The Deacons recruited lay preachers and visiting clergy for services through August of 2018. Rev. Hope accepted KCC's call to be our Interim Pastor, beginning in September of 2018. She began her community-strengthening program immediately, holding regular office hours and staff meetings, addressing the Church School needs, organizing a Confirmation Class, increasing communication, and adding get-togethers such as game nights and Trunk or Treat. We had two services on Christmas Eve, restoring the midnight candlelight service in addition to the early family service. We added services at Thanksgiving and New Year's and all through Holy Week—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, as well as Palm Sunday and Easter. Participants expressed their appreciation for our meaningful observance of Holy Week. We had a contemporary service planned and delivered by our confirmation students and plans are underway for more of them. On Pentecost, eight of our young people were confirmed.

Thanks to the Trustees, the kitchen renovation has provided a perfect space for preparing Communion every month—and a clean bright space for Coffee Hour hosts to work in every week and for the Reception Committee. The kitchen is a visible emblem of our radical hospitality, and our new ramp and lift provide access for all.

Each week, the Deacon of the Month welcomed the congregation, made announcements and recruited greeters, ushers, lay readers and coffee hour providers for each service. We are grateful to all who performed these weekly offices, to all who worshipped with us Sunday after Sunday, and to all who helped with memorial services and other special services. We are grateful to Jackie Camm Leduc for her lay preaching on several occasions during the year. Charley Sweeney has seen that we had banners inviting the community to all of our special services. The Junior Deacons have flourished under the direction of Clare Sweeney.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Berman
Charley Sweeney,
Co-Chairs, Board of Deacons

Kingston Congregational Church - Board of Music Annual Report July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

The Board of Music Members met on September 5, 2018 after the All Boards Pot Luck in the Church Hall. Members are C. Elizabeth Candas (voted Chair), Lori Ann Hiener, Clay V. Sink, Cathy Lenox, Ann Ross, Susan Snow, Matt Simeone, Nancy Ross and Frank P. Osterman. Ann Ross resigned shortly after this meeting due to health concerns. Frank Osterman was unable to attend any meetings.

The Music Board decided meetings would be held on Sundays after church in the Sanctuary. Dates held: September 5, 2018, December 9, 2018, February 24, 2019, May 5, 2019.

The cost of production for the 300 KCC Church Choir CD's was \$2050.00. The sales of CD's covered all expenses and they continue to be sold at \$15 each. There are currently 140 CD's available and at the June 16, 2019 meeting the Board voted to give 10 CD's to the Shepherding Committee to those unable to attend church due to health or other reasons. All proceeds of sales of CD's go into the Music Fund.

31 choir robes and stoles were picked up for cleaning by Bill Minty of Suburban Cleaners (401-783-8191). Suburban Cleaners has done an excellent job of cleaning our robes and is very accommodating in meeting deadlines.

A discussion on a theatre night at PPAC was held and Sue Snow took the lead on this. Unfortunately, we did not have enough time or enough people attending to manage this project. If started earlier in the year (over the summer), this is very doable and a good fundraiser for the church.

An Old Fashioned Hymn sing, a lessons and carols service, and Christmas Caroling in front of the church with hot chocolate afterwards were ideas discussed for the future. This Music Chair met with Steve White to investigate the possibility of a handicap chair/stair lift or elevator for access to our choir loft. As our members get older or have problems climbing stairs, this is a real need.

The Chime Choir is a work in progress. There is real interest but we have not had success in bringing this to fruition. Alice Babcock is so enthusiastic, but her health has again been a challenge. Michelle Girasole, Church School Director will incorporate music in the School Program and have the children participate in our services. This is very exciting for the Music Board. Dr. Garzilli looked through our music archives and found very good children's music.

Clay Sink, Sue Snow and this Chair met with Rev. Sharon Hope and Dr. Garzilli for the Annual Evaluation of the Music Director. That will be filed. The Music Board unanimously supports Enrico Garzilli's outstanding work as our KCC Music Director and we thank him for his innovative and professional work. The Music Board also thanks Sexton Andy Cournoyer for moving the drum set, for cutting up and taking out the riser from the choir loft and taking the chimes from upstairs to the downstairs closet.

We had an additional meeting on June 16, 2019 to meet the new members of the Music Board. We wish them a successful and productive year.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board of Music and I thank all who have made this a fun and successful year.

Annual Report 2019 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 senior choir continues to be outstanding in its dedicated contribution to Worship. The repertoire of anthems for the choir consists of the best available music from the past as well as new musical texts.

The adult Choir continues to meet every Thursday evening to prepare for Sunday Worship. I deeply appreciate their great contribution to Worship. The choir membership is as follows:

Sopranos - Loretta Shaw, Margaret Bradley, C. Elizabeth Candas, Susan Hammen-Winn, Diana Geisler, Sharon Davis, Andrea Richardson

Altos - Jean Miller, Karen Johnson, Susan Snow, Canna Falby

Tenors - Matthew Simeone, Ann Ross, Carrie Nally, Clay Sink, Frank Lenox, Ted Woodruff

Basses - Jim Findlay, Bill Nelson, Eric Widmer, Paul Schubert, Gary Davis

We are very blessed to have Rev. Sharon Ann Hope with her beautiful soprano voice join us occasionally as well.

Easter was truly wonderful with Trumpet, Percussion, Violin and Flute. We are very fortunate to have Luca Simeone and Jenny Collins, very fine trumpet players, play for several of our services. In addition to their singing at every service, I would like to thank Elizabeth Candas who has been an outstanding chair of the Board, Clay Sink for his very valuable membership, and the Music Board for their work this past year. I would also like to thank Diana Geisler for her very much appreciated service as choir librarian.

As organist, I was very happy to present an organ concert at St. Francis Church in Wakefield on Palm Sunday afternoon. I was thrilled to have Rev. Sharon Ann Hope sing parts of the final movement along with Georgette Hutchins. The title of the organ symphony was, *The Final Week*, a meditation on the last week of Jesus.

The choir also presented a concert along with high baritone, Bryan Kuchar at All Saints Episcopal Church in Warwick on June 23rd. Lastly, to all of you I express my gratitude once again for your support, encouragement, and inspiration.

Respectfully submitted,
Enrico Garzilli

KCC Trustees' Report to Congregation June 2019

Current Trustees: Secretary, Audrey Hallberg, Tracy Heffron, Wayne Lee, Mike Wakefield and Steve White, Chair.

Projects initiated or completed in the past year include the following:

New Kitchen – the redesign for new Kitchens 1 and 2 was planned and approved in 2017 and 2018 and the construction work was performed in 2019. Total budget being \$81,000 with the following income sources:

\$ 24,000	Donated by 49 KCC parishioners
7,000	Potter Fund for 2019
8,000	Trustees funds on hand
30,000	KCC Endowment
10,000	KCC Operating Account
<u>2,000</u>	Metz Flower Fund
\$ 81,000	

Gutters/Downspouts – cleaned and tested for water flow.

Dead Tree removed from parking lot area.

Sexton. Job Description reviewed and annual job performance joint conference held with Trustees' Chair and the Minister

Blue Jean Sundays - coordinated for the spring and fall.

Air Conditioning – The three room air conditioners in the Church Office, the Minister's Office and the Fireplace Room were old, malfunctioning and needed replacement. Upgrading the church's overall air conditioning system was examined. Central air conditioning and permanent room air conditioners were researched and considered but rejected as too costly and unnecessary. Three new replacement room air conditioners were donated to KCC and are installed in the Minister's office, the Church Office and the Fireplace Room.

Green Church – KCC continues to work to make ourselves a Green Church by insulating, recycling trash and seeking to use less disposable food related products where possible. A more formal Green Church process is being evaluated.

Sunday School Rooms – face lifted by cleaning and painting.

Treasurer's Report 2018-2019

During this first year of my tenure as Treasurer of Kingston Congregational Church, I would like to thank Doug Kraus, Shirley Schock, and Ron Stevens for bringing me up to speed. I would also like to thank the Assistant Treasurers for faithfully counting the church's weekly receipts.

The most significant Treasurer activity this year was working with the Audit Committee to choose Hoyt, Fillipetti, and Malaghan to conduct an audit of the church's 7/1/17-6/30/18 fiscal year. The total findings of the audit are described in the attached Audit Committee Report and the official Audit Documents stored in the church office. The main result of the audit is that the church received a "Qualified Audit Opinion" because our accounting system did not formally include SCRIP, Women's Fellowship and Endowment activity.

The auditor gave us 6/30/18 ending balances for these additional items. I obtained bank statements from SCRIP and Women's Fellowship and will use them along with Endowment statements to include in the Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The attached 2018-2019 fiscal year Treasurer's report is in the old format and shows that we ended 6/30/19 with a \$597.39 surplus.

Respectfully submitted,

Finance Board July 2018 – June 2019

The budget did well in fiscal year 2018-2019. Though we took the entire approx. 5% distribution from endowment as allowed and approved (about \$53,000), the budget only needed half. The other half was used to finish the kitchen projects. We were able to increase minister's salary for the balance of the fiscal year beginning March, still ending the year with a small surplus of \$597.39.

The Finance Board lost a long time member as Jim Ross retired. Evan Preisser took his place. Also retiring at the end of this fiscal year is Ron Stevens as Investment Committee chair. Nobody has stepped up yet. This is a mission critical position for the church.

I completed my second term as Treasurer at the end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and took over as Finance chair for 2019-2020. Sharon Davis was elected treasurer for 2019-2020. She has caught on very fast. An audit was successfully completed with a few recommendations.

Thank you,

Doug Kraus

Investment Committee Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 – 2019

The Investment Committee met twice during FY 2018-19 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). At its April 4, 2019 meeting The Committee reviewed and approved the Investment and Distribution Policy Statement (IDPS) with one minor correction (Current Revision is 2.2). The Committee also recommended that the by-laws be amended to allow the Committee to review the IDPS every two years (not annually). These recommendations need Board of Finance approval.

On July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 the Endowment portfolio had market values of \$1,401,896 and \$1,360,193, respectively. During the fiscal year, \$28,584 was distributed to the Church budget: \$26,659 (93.27%) for operations, \$1,925 (6.73%) for music, and \$0 (0.0%) for cemetery use. In addition, \$80,000 was transferred from the Endowment for the Trustee Kitchen Project (\$30,000) and for the Martone Exterior Restoration Project (\$50,000). On October 24, 2019 the Endowment received a donation of \$3,800 from the Spire Fund. The net outflow from the Endowment for the fiscal year was \$104,784. Using this net outflow and the above market values result in a portfolio return of 4.7% for FY 2018-19. For comparison, during this period, the Vanguard S&P 500 Stock Fund (VFIAX) returned 10.4%, the Vanguard Balanced Fund (VBINX) returned 8.8% and the Composite Index Allocation, specified in IDPS Rev. 2.2, returned 6.7%.

On June 30, 2019, approximately 40% (\$538,652) of the Endowment was principal (cannot be spent) and 60% (\$821,541) was earnings. The Endowment portfolio held a mix of 12 mutual funds and ETFs with a year-end asset mix of 78.4% stocks, 21.6% bonds, and 0.0% cash.

The budget distribution for FY 2019-20 is based on a trailing 7-year rolling average; using the Endowment's market value on December 31st of each year. The 7 year average from 2012 to 2018 is \$1,289,685. Using this average, the Committee recommended to the Board of Finance a 4.17% distribution of \$53,796 to support the Church budget for FY 2019-20 (86.76% for operations).

Submitted by Ron Stevens
Investment Committee

Audit Committee Report – June 9, 2019

Current Members: Sharon Davis, Paul Schubert, Ken Kermes, and Jim Ross

Since the last KCC Audit was in 2007, the current Audit Committee was charged with the task of securing a firm to conduct an audit of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. In September 2018, the Audit Committee requested several accounting firms to quote on auditing the 7/1/2017-6/30/2018 fiscal year. We received two quotes:

Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan \$6,750-\$7,500

Nadeau Wadovick \$7,000-\$7,500

At the January 2019 Congregational Meeting, the church approved spending up to \$7,500 for an audit and the Audit Committee hired Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan. Elise vonHousen from Hoyt worked with Shirley Schock in April and May and is submitting a draft of their findings in the attached Governance Letter, Management Letter and Audited Financial Statements.

Per the attached Management Letter, the audit firm found two material weaknesses:

1. Omission of accounts from our accounting system- SCRIP and Women's Fellowship. Since these organizations use the Church's EIN number on their bank accounts, they need to be included in our system.
2. Endowment Assets - lack of sufficient documentation supporting the balances of temporarily and permanently restricted net assets.

They also found seven significant deficiencies:

1. Segregation of Duties-the same person is posting the weekly deposits and reconciling the monthly bank statements.
2. Tracking of Employee Benefits - lack of a system of tracking the sick and personal leave earned and used by employees.
3. Maintenance of Employee Files - lack of maintaining separate employee files for all Church staff.
4. Access to Accounting Records - all staff and volunteers who access the accounting software utilize the same password and have access to the full accounting system
5. Payroll Procedures - one person handles all aspects of the payroll process and the system for reporting hours worked is very informal with no review or approval by management.
6. Cash Disbursements - only one signature is required for all disbursements.
7. Journal Entries - when journal entries are made to transfer balances between funds they are entered as income and expenses, rather transfer of net assets. As a result income and expenses are overstated.

The firm made recommendations for correcting these weaknesses and deficiencies. My plan is to meet with various KCC members/committees/staff to implement those recommendations. The end result of these findings caused the audit firm to provide an overall “qualified audit opinion.”

When I further discussed the basis for the qualified opinion shown on page 2 of the Independent Auditors’ Report, the auditor admitted that the church not recording the value of church property and equipment is a common accounting departure for old churches whose assets are probably fully depreciated at this time. Also not counting pledges as contributions receivable when they are pledged is also a common accounting departure.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Davis
Audit Committee

KCC Stewardship Campaign 2019

The Board of Stewardship, consisting of Angelo Mendillo, Doug Kraus, and Ann Lenox (chair), planned this year’s Stewardship campaign around the theme of “*Living Generously, Giving Joyfully.*” The campaign kicked off on January 27 with a Stewardship Sermon delivered by Reverend Sharon Hope. Stewardship’s Honorary Chairperson, Tom Brillat spoke on stewardship during the Meatball Supper on February 8. David Bergeron, Frank Lenox, and Louise Pearson each spoke on Stewardship during the following three worship services. Video access to each of the speakers’ testimonials and Sharon’s sermon were made available to all members through an emailed link. All members and friends of the church were sent a Stewardship letter requesting a pledge for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Included with the letter was a suggested giving guide and an updated pledge form. In addition to this form sent via mail, pledgers could also print out a form via an email link, or pledge online, also through an email link. The campaign ended on March 3, which was the date the Board requested that all pledges be submitted; however, we have received additional pledges beyond this date. To date, we have received 96 pledges for a total of \$206,161.00. The Board of Stewardship will send out thank you notes to each member and friend of KCC who pledged this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lenox, co-chair, Board of Stewardship, 5/19/2019

Scrip Program Annual Report, July 2019

The SCRIP Program is an ongoing fund raising program run by volunteers which began in the fall of 2009. Church members and friends may purchase participating Retailers' Gift Cards for groceries and other items in specific denominations and the church receives a rebate from the retailers. This rebate averages about 4.5% but some retailers have a significantly higher rebate.

The SCRIP Table is staffed in the Fellowship Hall almost every Sunday both before and after the service. On any given Sunday, we carry cards for Belmont, Stop & Shop, Shaw's, Dave's Market, CVS, Walmart, Staples, Panera Bread, Marshall's, Camden's Restaurant, Starbuck's, Dunkin Donuts and iTunes. Now that Rite Aid has been bought by Walgreens, I will look into the need to carry those as well. The above Gift Cards are available for immediate sale while other cards, for example, Amazon, Land's End, LL Bean, Home Depot, Lowe's and many others will be purchased when an order is placed by a church member.

Payment for the Gift Cards may be made with a check or cash. I am looking into the ability to purchase Gift Cards using a credit card. The church generally earns a profit of over \$6,000 annually which is shared between the Board of Missions and the Church Operating Fund.

I'd very much like to see more church members buying Gift Cards. It is such an easy way for our church to earn money. We all have to shop, so why not shop at the SCRIP Table first?

The current SCRIP Team is made up of: Dottie Leduc, Elizabeth McNab, Nancy Corvese, Wayne Lee, Dick Shaw, and Andrea Richardson. Lori Ann Heiner has agreed to assist if/when needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Richardson, Coordinator

Annual Report of KCC Board of Membership

In September, 2018, the Board set priorities for the year:

1. Completing the task of compiling an active list of members from the 476 names kept in our files for the past ten years.
2. Creating a church census with up-to-date contact information.
3. Placing this information into a data base to be used by the pastor, office, committees, and boards to facilitate communications with all members.
4. Up-dating our church directory by the end of 2019.
5. Updating and printing the descriptive church brochure.
6. Supporting this year's confirmands, financing their May retreat to Irons Homestead.
7. Enabling and supporting intergenerational activities and events with guidance from Pastor Sharon.

With the updated active membership list, data base, and scheduled member photographs, our new directory will be available this fall.

We intend to continue sponsoring events (Trunk or Treat, the Christmas Tree Decorating Party, The Easter Egg Hunt, family game nights) for the enjoyment of our church family.

We'll continue welcoming visitors, listening to and working with church members and groups to open up lines of communication, and creating opportunities for everyone to participate in being part of a vibrant community centered on caring for and helping each other in our spiritual journey here at KCC.

Fran Bergeron, Loretta Shaw, Joyce Stevos, Connie Fitzelle, Lori-Ann Hiener, Alyssa Hiener, and Clare Sweeney

KCC Membership Report July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Members as of July 1, 2018 **328**

Additions:

Confirmands	8
New Members	4
Members Reactivated	2

Total Additions: **14**

Losses:

Death	5
Transfer	1
Inactive by Request	18
Inactive by Board of Membership	47

Total Losses: **71**

Members as of June 30, 2019 **271**

Baptisms	6
Marriages	0

Date

Baptisms

Dulcie Marie Ilgenfritz	April 20, 2019
Jessica Marie Ilgenfritz	April 20, 2019
Sarah Elizabeth Ilgenfritz	April 20, 2019
Alexander Charles Ilgenfritz	April 20, 2019
Kiel Daniel Asher	June 2, 2019
Ryan Estus	June 9, 2019

New Members

Gary Davis	December 2, 2018
Joan Dempsey	December 2, 2018
Carolyn Eldridge	December 2, 2018
Gideon Lyngdoh	December 2, 2018

Confirmands:

Travis Coleman	June 9, 2019
Ryan Estus	June 9, 2019
Jessie Girasole	June 9, 2019
Nicholas Girasole	June 9, 2019
Alyssa Hiener	June 9, 2019
Lauren Hubertus	June 9, 2019
Lindsay Jensen	June 9, 2019
James Richard Reid	June 9, 2019

Deaths

Richard Handschumacher		January 2, 2018
Luke Samuel Albert		July 23, 2018
Judith E. Babcock Brown	non-member	August 10, 2018
William A. Bowers III	non-member	August 19, 2018
Joan R. McCauley		September 19, 2018
Peter E. Bradley	non-member	October 12, 2018
John E. Helfrich		December 7, 2018
George Fitzelle		March 4, 2019
Charles Schock	non-member	April 13, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta H. Shaw
Registrar

KCC Board of Missions and Social Justice Annual Report 2018-2019

Members: Karen Johnson chair, Jim Findlay, Ron Stevens, Cindy Buxton, Judi Parman, Sue Davis, Lisa Bowie, Angela Haggerty. Karen thanks all committee members for their hard work and commitment to our cause.

This is how our budget was spent:

\$1000 to the Jonnycake Center for the Emergency Crisis Fund

\$1000 to Habitat for Humanity

\$350 to Kind, Inc.

\$500 to Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley

\$650 to the Wisdom Stoves project

\$500 to the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty

\$425 to the Galilee Mission

\$425 to Doctors Without Borders

\$500 to the Education Exchange

\$700 for the Emig Lecture to Delle McCormick of the Monastery Mission

Outstanding is the bill to RI Interfaith Power and Light \$150 not yet received. After inquiring to that organization, they are in transition. It was decided to spend the \$150 on additional support to the Wisdom Stoves project.

Chairperson Karen Johnson attended most monthly church Council meetings.

Ron Stevens and Judi Parman attended most monthly meetings of the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty and reported at the monthly BOMSJ meetings.

The Board of Missions and Social Justice met nearly monthly during this time frame.

Due to the policies of the US government at the border with Mexico, and spurred by Reverend Sharon Hope's trip to McAllen, Texas, a major focus of our mission was to support organizations providing for the immigrants from the South.

Ron Stevens has been in touch with the head of the Education Exchange and continued to work on getting him as a speaker after a service. This occurred on May 5, 2019 and was very informative regarding the work they do to support people getting into the workspace in South County.

The Church participated in Blanket Sunday and a generous \$2,268.00 was sent on to the RI Conference.

The Christmas Offering was taken and distributed equally among the UCC Emergency USA Fund, McAuley Ministries in Providence RI, and Rhody Outpost, a URI food pantry housed at the Episcopal Church on campus.

One Great Hour of Sharing generated \$3083.00 for the RI UCC Conference.

Judi Parman consistently brought information from Habitat for Humanity to the group and we continued to support their work including a fundraising event entitled "Habitat Happening."

Lisa Bowe offered to work on a monthly or so update to the congregation in a "Moment for Missions." Lisa also took a suitcase of highly desired items to the Monastery Mission after hearing Delle's message. Underwear, diapers, socks, and shoelaces were needed as immigrants coming were lacking these items and shoelaces were confiscated on entry to a detention center.

Reverend Sharon supported the Poverty in the Pulpit Sunday message about poverty issues in RI. We learned the group (RIICRP) was looking for a better name but had not come up with anything yet.

The Emig Lecture was given on Palm Sunday and the Reverend Delle McCormick also gave the message during the service. The congregation was very generous in their donations of an additional \$4,000.00 to be used by the Monastery Mission in their work with immigrants.

The day prior to the Emig Lecture (Saturday) the board sponsored a lecture for the public, given by Delle, with fellowship and refreshments after. This was well received by the participants.

Through the year Sue brought up the possibility of supporting Nonviolent Schools RI started by Robin Wildman. While the committee members agree the cause is worthy, we are unable to give financial support as they are not yet an official nonprofit institution. Sue will keep us updated.

We also spent time discussing the problem of suicide which has touched many however we were unable to come to a consensus on where if at all, to make donations.

At the Congregational Meeting Karen gave the following thanks:

Jim for steadfast support of churchwide collections and writing contributions about upcoming events.
Ron for meticulous tracking of our funds and distribution including investigations for websites and information about the organizations we support. He orchestrated the talk by Cameron Ellis (Education Exchange)

Cindy for her institutional knowledge and tireless support for the goals of our committee. She steps in whenever needed. Special thanks for her work on the Emig Lecture.

Judi for her reliable transportation of the food donations of the congregation, attendance with Ron at the meetings of the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty and all their events, her baking skills, management of our notice board, mail management, and broader outlook.

Sue for her fresh ideas.

Angela for her new commitment and generosity.

Lisa for her broad perspective and taking on of new tasks to keep church members informed. Also for the great idea to take items to the Monestary where Delle McCormick works with immigrants.

During our final meeting we had a presentation on the Wisdom Stove project by Michelle Girasole's intern Dasha. She had a zoom video call with Edward Montevunye and did extensive research on Zimbabwe. She gave a power point presentation that she narrated after which we decided to donate the last \$150 from our budget to the Wisdom Stoves project for transportation costs.

Our next meeting will be September 16 at 7pm.

Report respectfully submitted by Karen Johnson 8/1/19

The Missions Board invites you to view their budget and ledger report filed in their notebook in the Church Office.

KCC Board of Christian Education Annual Report 2018-19

Christian Education at KCC ended with a strong program for 2018-19, but it had a rocky start. Alice Babcock, Director of Christian Education, retired due to health issues. Mike McMahon, Chair of Board of Christian Education, resigned after faithfully filling in as needed in the church school for four years. Although an effort was made to attract increasing numbers of children through a “Church School Arts and Music Initiative,” attendance was dropping.

In light of these changes, several people stepped forward to build our church school. Sarah Ilgenfritz, along with Dulcie Ilgenfritz and Rev. Sharon Hope cleaned the classrooms and stocked them with supplies. Frank Lenox, Rev. Sharon, and the board planned and executed an exciting Rally Day to welcome back the children from summer vacations. Sarah Ilgenfritz planned a family game night with the goal of bringing young people to church. Rev. Sharon developed lesson plans for the volunteer teachers. Nancy Gardner was re-hired for the nursery. Jean Miller volunteered to chair the board and Jessie Kenyon volunteered to be the secretary for the board. An October activity called Trunk or Treat was sponsored for the children with generous contributions from the congregation.

The search process for hiring a new Director of Christian Education and Communication began by developing a new job description that included Christian Education and Communication of KCC activities. Once approved, the job description was distributed by the RI Conference of the United Church of Christ, the RI Council of Churches, and INDEED which is an online service for announcing job opportunities. The only applicants came through INDEED, but the skill sets of these applicants were mainly in the area of communication and not in management of a church school.

While searching for a new director, Jonathan Lewis was hired in October (with backup from Rev. Sharon) to work with the children and volunteer teachers until the position was filled. He came with a rich background of teaching and building a “Beloved Community” using Dr. Martin Luther King’s message of “What’s Your Life Blueprint?”

In March Michelle Girasole, a member of the KCC congregation, submitted her application for the position of Director of Christian Education and Communications. She came with the unusual combination of experience in our church school along with experience in communications through her own business and with a Master’s degree in Business and Marketing from the University of Rhode Island. Her application was accepted with enthusiasm and she began work April 1.

Michelle attended the Conference of the New England Association of United Christian Educators (NEAUCE) in NH in April. Many of the concepts that were presented have been/will be incorporated into our church school program. Michelle considered it a blessing to have this excellent training occur so soon after she was hired. She now has connections with many of the Church School directors in RI who are a supportive resource to one another.

Several activities aimed at impacting the spiritual formation of our children were sponsored by the Board of Christian Education as well as by other boards and persons in the last year. A video was made of the children's voices and can be seen on the KCC Facebook page. Jackie Camm provided an Easter Hunt for the children. Sarah Ilgenfritz led a family game night to attract new families to KCC. Sarah along with Michelle and Sarah Simeone promoted our church school through activities at the Kingston Fair through rock painting and food trucks. This year's confirmands planned and sponsored an Easter Sunday evening service for young adults. Clare Sweeney led the Junior Deacon program. Frank Lenox and Rev. Sharon guided eight confirmands in the next phase of their faith development. Michelle provided the "Word for All Ages" during the morning worship hours. Michelle communicated KCC activities through flyers on community boards and in libraries, news releases for all services and events in local papers, and an ad in Facebook for the Easter Sunday evening service.

Adult spiritual formation was fostered through weekly Bible studies that were related to scripture for the upcoming Sunday services. Average attendance ran around 10-12 people. Other adult education programs were planned for Sundays after the service, but this time frame did not work well in light of other activities at this time.

The Board of Christian Education is grateful to the volunteer teachers and all who helped to make this a successful year in the church school. The board will continue to insure the provision of active and dynamic programs of Christian Education for all the people of the church in the year to come.

Submitted by Jean Miller for the Board of Christian Education (Jessie Kenyon, Sarah Simeone, and Rem Remington; Michelle Girasole, Director of Christian Education; Rev. Sharon Hope, Ex-officio)

Church School Annual Report July 2015 – June 2016

It was a year of transition for the church school program. During the fall of 2018, our beloved Director of Christian Education, Alice Babcock, retired due to health issues. After meeting with church school teacher volunteers, Pastor Sharon recruited two pivotal people to help run the school. Sarah Ilgenfritz helped clean and organize classrooms, create promotional events and assisted teachers in classrooms, as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Jonathan Lewis, who had worked with Pastor Sharon in the nonviolence in schools program, led a series of classes on the Beloved Community and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's "What is Your Life's Blueprint" speech. A promotional video was created, to show our intergenerational workshop and fellowship at KCC.

Teachers for this year:

Nursery - Nancy Gardner

Pre K / K (none)

Grade 1 /2 - Dulce and Sarah Ilgenfritz

Grade 3/4/5 - Michelle Girasole and Sarah Simeone

Grade 6/7/8 (none)

Volunteers from the congregation as well as confirmand students were recruited to serve as classroom assistants. For many weeks, there were no babies in the nursery and too few volunteers or too few children in attendance to hold separate classes, so classes were taught with all ages in the Fireplace Room. On average, there were 8-12 children each week.

The annual Christmas Play was directed by Lori Ann Hiener and was presented by the Church School children on December 16, 2019 as part of the worship service. This allowed many children (and a few comedic adults) to participate. The school year concluded with the children conducting the worship service during the month of June, coordinated by Clare Sweeney as "Junior Deacon Month". A brunch followed the worship service on June 2nd, to honor the teachers and volunteers who lead the activities each week.

As the new Church School Director, I attended meetings of the Rhode Island Chapter of New England Association of United Christian Educators (NEAUCE) including the annual retreat held April 30 - May 1. I have enjoyed meeting CE Directors from other churches, sharing resources and ideas, and incorporating new concepts, like a morning where all ages huddle and creating community outreach through the Faithful Families workshop, written by the retreat's keynote speaker. It was divine timing for this event to be held in the first month I was on the job.

Kristen Putney (RI's chapter CE coordinator) and Pastor Sharon Hope have been instrumental in helping me shape the future of the CE program here at Kingston Congregational Church. I feel blessed to work with these women, and the entire staff at KCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Girasole

Director of Christian Education and Communication

Board of Fellowship Annual Report 2018/2019

The Fellowship Board is an enthusiastic and hard working group responsible for creating social events that bring together our church community to build camaraderie and kinship.

This year, the Fellowship Board hosted 8 events:

- Welcome Back Ice Cream Social
- Fall Soup Sunday
- Advent Wreath “wreaths to go”
- Winter Pot Luck dinner
- Italian Night Spaghetti & Meatballs Dinner
- Spring Soup Sunday
- Progressive Supper
- Kick off to Summer Hot Dog Luncheon

Attendance remains steady in our fifth year – with approximately 120 attendees. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Our board is very interested in hearing feedback and making program adjustments, based on suggestions from the Congregation. In this regard, we made Advent Wreaths “to go” and added the “Italian Night”, to mix things up a bit.

As outgoing Chair, I want to extend my sincere thanks to the board members who work tirelessly to make each event appear effortless: Tracy Heffron, JoAnn Pillar, Maureen White, Sarah Simeone and Lora Hahn Schubert. I would also like to thank Reverend Sharon, Andy Cournoyer, Shirley Schock, and spouses Mike McMahon, and Steve White for their unwavering support.

It has been my honor to Chair this board for the past 6 years and I know the newly formed board will create an equally welcoming environment of fellowship and community in the coming year.

Respectfully,

Mary K. Daly

Board of Fellowship Chair

Women's Fellowship Annual Report - June 2018-July 2019

KCC Women's Fellowship is open to all women who are members and friends of this congregation. Our mission is to: 1) provide friendship and support and to nurture each woman's faith journey, 2) to come together for education, entertainment and enjoyment and 3) to donate our time, efforts and money to projects which benefit our church, our community and the world.

Once again, we enjoyed a successful year of well-attended events and fundraisers. We met in September with our annual potluck supper and shared our news and updated everyone with our calendar of events. In October we gathered to hear Alinda Nelson speak on the topic of Communications. In November, Helen Rowe-Drake and Cindy Buxton masterfully organized the Gingerbread House Decorating Event with 60+ houses and inter-generational participants. (The boys of KCC were invited for the first time, and joyfully, several attended.)

In December, Judi Parman ran our Christmas Cookie and Gift Sale during the "Holiday in Kingston" event. Diana Geisler, each year, chairs our Bulbs for Shut-Ins and coordinates their delivery. Our January meeting was an introduction to Tai Chi, and in March we welcomed Joyce Stevos and her cousin, Nancy, to share wonderful stories about her native American ancestry and family history. In April, we assembled our School and Hygiene Kits for Church World Service, and thanked Helen Rowe-Drake for purchasing items, coordinating the collation of bags and handling delivery each year.

This May, Nancy Ross and Michelle Girasole coordinated our annual Bake Sale, as part of the Kingston Fair and also this year, Peace Day at KCC, with food trucks and rock painting for families. It was a lively event and a beautiful spring day. In June, our annual meeting and Ice Cream Social took place, and we decided to continue to fund many local charities, that we have supported in the past. We also voted to use our Memorial Funds to purchase a Peace Pole which reads "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 7 different languages. It will be installed in the fall.

Throughout the year Carolyn Barwise sends out birthday cards, well wishes and sympathy cards. Overall, we have about 20-40 women who attend our meetings and many more who donate funds, gifts and baked goods for our sales. Our annual fundraising letter plus our bake sales enables us to donate to our chosen charities. For Church World Service, we assembled 80 school kits and 72 hygiene kits totaling \$586 +\$304 towards shipping. Our other charities are RI based and include: SC Church Women United, Southern RI Volunteers, SC Habitat for Humanity, Welcome House, Adoption RI, Domestic Violence Resource Center, RI Food Bank, Jonnycake Center, Camp Ruggles, and Cane Child Development Center for a total of \$2500. We also donated \$1000 to the Kitchen, \$500 to the Tuscon Respite Center and \$50 donation for flowers on Memorial Day Sunday.

With thanks to this year's Board Members: President Michelle Girasole, VP Nancy Ross, treasurer Karen Tucker, secretary Cindy Buxton, sunshine Carolyn Barwise, publicity Helen Rowe-Drake and program help from Connie Fitzelle. Our Holiday in Kingston and Kingston Fair Bake Sales couldn't happen without the help of many who baked, set up, sold, bought and organized these two fund raisers, thank you.

We are seeking a new president, as Michelle Girasole has taken over as church school director and she will still serve as communications liaison. Helen Rowe-Drake will serve as VP, Karen Tucker will remain treasurer and Cindy Buxton will stay Secretary. Women's Fellowship is not a Church Board and is a separate, small, but vital part of the life of KCC and our local community.

Submitted by Michelle Girasole and Helen Rowe-Drake

Flower Committee Annual Report July 2018-July 2019

The Flower Committee continued its weekly responsibilities from September 1 through the last Sunday of June, with flowers for the altar and front door. After the service, we divided the flowers into three arrangements – one was given to the donors (if in church) and two were given to other individuals based on prayers and celebrations or special music or speaker. A record is kept in a notebook in the committee's closet. Each donor is asked to pay \$50 for the arrangement by leaving a check in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office. There were 38/4Sundays with flowers from Kenyon's with one donor each week. (38 x \$50=\$1900) 40 x \$50 = \$2000 Our relationship with Kenyon Ave. Floral for weekly flowers continues and the flowers are beautiful.

We did purchase two new fall sunflower wreaths for the front doors for \$32.

For the summer months of July and August, the committee gets a break and anyone can bring in flowers from their garden or purchase flowers to bring in/take out. Signing up in advance or a notice in the bulletin is not required unless someone wants a special remembrance.

The Flower Committee decorated the sanctuary and doors for Christmas with our traditional garlands and wreaths on November 25th after service and before the first Sunday of Advent. The Christmas Play was December 16 (no flowers, one Poinsettia). The Poinsettias were picked up on Friday, December 21st by Helen at the Pezza Farm's new location in East Greenwich. Jenn DeLuise helped Helen unload and arrange the display at 1:00 on the 21st. Some were taken after the 5:00 service on Christmas Eve and some after the 11:00 though 15 were left through Sunday the 30th. We ordered them through Troop 1 Kingston Boy Scouts for \$12 each, 22 red and 12 white ones for a total of 34 and a cost of \$408. We added an order for six more (64.80) for a total of 40 at \$472.80 cost. We had to order them in early December and hoped to sell them all. We charged \$15. And 40 x \$15=\$600. Gain was \$127.20-\$32 for batteries and new window candles.

For Easter, which was April 21st this year, we did a display of 27 lilies, 14 tulips and 10 daffodils for a total of 51 plants which Helen picked up from Confreda Farm in Hope, RI. The total cost was \$517.50. We had 29 donors for a total of 35 plants at a cost of \$15 each = \$525, gain was \$7.50. Helen and Jenn arranged the flowers after the Good Friday Meditation Service (several women helped carry them in). There were so many that some were in the Library and Fellowship Hall. The majority were taken after Easter Sunday Service but several were left for the Sunday evening service, especially since we had extras which were then given to the staff, some of the Flower Committee, and a few daffodils were even planted outside the church. (We did not use Kenyon's this year because their prices went up quite a bit and we would have had to raise our price. Confreda's were less and fine.)

At the beginning of the year, Beth Curtis and Erica Estus both stepped down and Michelle Girasole is now the Church School Director so three are off the committee. Carolyn Eastberg and Joan Dempsey have been helping and learning what to do and will hopefully take on a month next year. Helen Rowe-Drake agreed to stay as chair. She finds it easier to co-ordinate/phone/email past donors for each month and submit it to Shirley by the 15th of the month. Therefore, other members of the committee only need to be in church and do the arrangements for their assigned month, usually in pairs if possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Rowe-Drake, chair
Jenn DeLuise
Angela Haggerty
Lora Hahn-Schubert

Lori Remington - Jan only
Carolyn Eastberg
Joan Dempsey

Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase
Report of the Cemeteries Committee
May 15, 2019

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 its last one, Bernon E. Helme, in 1944. Although inactive since then, it is still open for burials. 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 the 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 the Society and of the church and their families.

2018 - 2019 Report - Chris Faella, caretaker for New Fernwood Cemetery, covers the routine maintenance at Old Fernwood and the Peckham Cemeteries. Scott Wallace continues to provide maintenance at the Tower Hill Cemetery.

During the past year (May 2018-April 2019) the following death/interment took place: New section OF - George Thornton Fitzelle 3/4/19 #504

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 last raised on September 1, 2007 to \$600 for non-members and \$450 for members. The Committee will be reviewing rates this year. 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 CSPP.

Respectfully submitted: Cemetery Committee - Elizabeth McNab, Richard Shaw, Tracy Heffron, and Jane Skogley