

# The Spire

**F**rom Your Pastor

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November 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

Most everyone is advertising flu shots; grocery and drug stores, the mall and other places. There is another malady that lurks in this season; the disease of “Affluenza”; defined as “a painful, contagious socially transmitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more (John deGraaf, David Winn and Thomas H. Naylor, *Affluenz: The All Consuming Epidemic*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Berrett-Kohler Publishers, 2005)

In the next eight weeks Americans will spend \$14.6 billion on gifts. The average family spends between \$700 and \$1400 each season. On average the credit card bills are not paid off until late March. Our gifting frenzy generates about 25 million tons of additional garbage (nationally).

And there are 36.3 million people in the United States who are hungry or at risk of hunger, including 13 million children. (Bread for the World Domestic Hunger Fact Sheet). In Rhode Island that translates to about 70,000 people with 40,000 children.

There is no question that we have the potential to significantly decrease the number of hungry families in Rhode Island by simply changing our giving priorities. Most of us need nothing. If we are hungry it is mostly likely because we didn't have or take the time to eat. Yes, money is tight for most of us, but we will still buy gifts for one another.

Here is an idea for alternative Holiday Giving that makes a difference for the people Jesus loved and cared for: the poor, widows and orphans, the oppressed and those in need.

Draw names for Holiday giving at Thanksgiving. Buy one gift for that person (with a limit of \$25.00). As a family use the balance of what you would have spent and support the charity of your choice. Write a letter as a family to the charity to explain.

Families with young children tend to exempt them from the one gift rule. But what might it mean to a child's faith development to share that experience with the rest of the family? If you start very young, the child never knows anything different.

Celebrate National Buy Nothing Day (the day after Thanksgiving) and bring your extra coats to the Coat Exchange on the grounds of the State House. All you'll feel is good.

Grace and Peace  
Pastor Pat

**Welcome** to new visitors and to old friends. **Welcome** to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, single people and children. **Welcome** to people of all colors, cultures, abilities, and sexual orientation, to young and old, to believers and questioners, and welcome to questioning believers. **Welcome** to all who have no church home, need strength, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. We joyfully and unconditionally welcome you. We hope you find peace and inspiration in our service. **YOU are welcome here!**

(Voted on and approved by the congregation January 28, 2007)

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*November's Deacon of the Month is Beth Asher.*

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### ***In Sympathy***

The congregation expresses deepest condolences to Barbara Zarchen and family on the death of her husband, Maurice Zarchen who died on October 9<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

The congregation also expresses deepest condolences to Carolyn Bradley and family on the death of her husband, Vernon Bradley who died on October 17<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

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### ***Baptism***

William Sargent Gwaltney      Parents: Adam and Kimberly Gwaltney      October 3, 2010

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## **Planned Giving**

In response to requests from members of the congregation, The Planned Giving Committee will be hosting another workshop on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am in the Fireplace Room. We will discuss how you can include a bequest in your will to the Church, to be added to KCC's permanent endowment. The committee will discuss and provide materials about a way in which you can enhance your retirement income while benefiting the Church through a Charitable Gift Annuity. Please come to learn more.

## **Jazz Concert in November!!!**

The University of Rhode Island Music Department is coming to Kingston Congregational Church to perform a Jazz Concert. The program will be arranged by URI Music Director Joseph Parrillo.

The Jazz Concert will be held in the KCC Fellowship Hall on Saturday evening, November 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30PM. Tickets will be sold in advance and at the door. Refreshments will be sold with all the proceeds to benefit the general fund of KCC.

Everyone is welcome to this fun event! However, please note that we have limited capacity so buy your tickets early... don't miss out on a great evening of fantastic Jazz Music that the whole family will enjoy!

For more information, contact Mark Tortolani at 539-7417.

## Women of the Bible

Everyone knows about the men of the Bible - David, Solomon, Matthew..... but what about the women like Ruth, Esther and Judith. For four Sundays, members of Kingston Congregational and Peace Dale will join together to learn more about these women of the Bible. Entitled "Uppity Women of the Bible", this series will be offered on Sunday evenings from 5-7 and is designed so that one can attend all, some or even just one of the sessions. Peace Dale and Kingston will alternate hosting and attendees are asked to bring a potluck dish. The series will combine a video component, conversation over great food! The sessions will be facilitated by Rev. Pat Liberty, with Myrna Bizer from Peace Dale Congregational Church and Jean Miller from KCC.

*The central resource for this Christian Education opportunity will be a DVD collection featuring Lisa Michele Wolfe who earned a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Garret-Evangelical theological Seminary and Northwestern University's joint program in Religious and Theological Studies. Dr. Wolfe is an ordained UCC minister. The following are brief summaries from the collection.*

(October 17 - Ruth)

November 14 – Esther (at Peace Dale)

Esther, surrounded by an exotic and fanciful Persian Kingdom, proved a courageous force as she protected her people from disaster. We will dig into a complex story that ranges from slapstick farce to Shakespearean tragedy.

November 21 – Judith (at KCC)

Judith knew how to take things into her own hands! This session will take you from the battlefield to an art studio.

November 28 - Song of Songs (at Peace Dale)

In this session we will explore the Song of Songs.

## Swords into Plowshares a film series for PEACE

We are joining other churches for this FREE fall series. Please come for the movies at 7 pm followed by discussion led by a special moderator each time. Please bring a perishable food item or toiletries for Jonnycake Center/Welcome House.

Remaining films to be shown:

Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> - "Forbidden Games" at Kingston Congregational, UCC  
Kingstown Rd., Kingston

Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> - "The Short Life of Jose Antonio Gutierrez" at Congregation  
Beth David of Narragansett, Kingstown Rd., Narragansett

# **World Community Day 2010**

**Friday, November 5 at 5:30 PM**

**Church of the Ascension**

**Wakefield, RI**

“Building the Beloved Community”

Sponsored by South County Church Women United

World Community Day, sponsored by Church Women United, is celebrated annually in the first week of November, as an ecumenical service that brings people together to share their aspirations and challenges. This year's program begins with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of a world in which people of many nations and traditions work together in a commitment of nonviolent means. Together we will consider examples of economic injustice in the light of a goal: communities that promote the dignity, safety, and economic opportunities for all-which Dr. King memorably called “The Beloved Community”.

Please come and join with members of many of our area churches. Bring a potluck dish to share along with your place setting.

For more information about this program please contact Canna Falby, 295-9742.

## **Christmas Cookie Sale Sign Up!!!!**

Jan Kraus will be hanging a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. All cookie bakers, please sign your name and phone number. If you know what cookies you plan to bake, add that information as well, so we do not have duplicates. Last year we had 38 bakers, the year before we had 32 bakers. My goal for this year is to have 40 or more bakers. I am asking each person to bake at least 3 or more dozen medium sized, eye-catching and delicious Christmas cookies. There will also be a sign up sheet for volunteers. Cookies are to be dropped off at the church kitchen on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7PM and we will set up the Fellowship Hall for the cookie and crafts sale at that time. We need people to help arrange the cookies on trays for display on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and to help with the sale on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and to help with clean up after coffee hour on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Information slips will be in a folder on the wall about the Cookie Sale which will be open to the public on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and before and after the church service on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Cookies will again be sold by the pound. Last year 80% of the cookies were sold on Saturday!

If anyone wishes to contact me, please email me at [jan@kraus.info](mailto:jan@kraus.info) or call me at 783-1447.

Thank you!

Jan Kraus

## **Women's Fellowship Mother-Daughter-Grandmother Luncheon Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am – 2:00 pm**

Come join the fun and fellowship as we eat lunch and decorate Gingerbread Houses.

Bring a sandwich. Dessert and drinks will be provided.

For reservations, call Claudia Smith, 788-8141.

\$12 for each house you order

## **Women's Fellowship**

Yes, it's only November but Christmas is just around the corner so:

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, December 10 at 6 pm at KCC for Christmas Dinner and entertainment. \$15 per person.  
Please make reservations with Canna Falby 295-9742.

## **Women's Fellowship January Program**

Women's Fellowship has invited Reverend Pat Liberty to come and speak to us about her work with Hospice and her faith Journey. Pat has enthusiastically agreed to come and speak with us at our Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The meeting begins at 7PM in the Fireplace Room. We look forward to a wonderful program that evening. Please mark your calendars.

## **Junior High Fellowship Save the Date: November 7th**

Jr. High Fellowship's next event is Leaf Raking for KCC's seniors in need. This will take place after Church service on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Wear appropriate clothes, bring your lunch, a rake, and lots of energy.

More details to follow. Call Sue Macy 294-6513 for additional information.

## **“Spire Club”**

KCC's “Spire Club” is a group of volunteers who meet once a month (schedules vary but members come when they can) to prepare KCC's newsletter, *The Spire*, for mailing. Duties include folding, labeling and stapling.

The schedule varies a bit based on when the newsletter needs to get to the post office, the goal being to get the newsletter into the hands of subscribers by the first of each month. Usually, the group meets in the Fireplace Room on a Tuesday or Wednesday morning at 9:30am. The job usually takes about an hour to an hour and a half depending on how many club members are available on the chosen day and the number of inserts that may need to be put in with the newsletter.

If you would like to join the group, please email [office@kingcongchurch.org](mailto:office@kingcongchurch.org) and let Shirley know you would like to be on the list to be notified each month, via email, of when Spire day will be.

## **KCC Environmental Task Force**

A Few Environmental Notes to Share:

- 1.) The United Nations voted to make access to clean water a human right. Hopefully, this action will stimulate more work and money towards providing clean water and cleaning up contaminated water. More people die each year from contaminated water than from all forms of violence and war combined, almost twelve people every three minutes! Did you know that a \$25 donation to water.org could provide clean water for one person for a lifetime?
- 2.) Solar Panels will soon be going up on the roof of the White House Residence. The Obamas hope that this will stimulate others to go solar, similar to the vegetable gardening campaign. (Of course, if the White House had left the solar panels that President Carter put up, we wouldn't be doing it over again.)
- 3.) The Department of Interior has approved two permits for the first utility scale solar projects on federal lands in the US, both in California. One is the Chevron Lucern Valley and is considered small with 45 MW produced. The second is the Imperial Valley project that is on 6500 acres of land, 14 miles west of El Centro and the power will go to San Diego. It aims to produce 709 MW with gigantic solar dishes. Both sites worked with and were approved by the NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) so we can hope that they will have a minimal negative environmental impact.
- 4.) 10/10/10 was a unique date and for Greenpeace and 350.org it was called "A Global Day of Action Against Climate Change". 7000 events in 188 countries were held that day to raise awareness and call for more actions to stop pollution and CO2 emissions.

## **S. P. N. M. News**

The South Providence Neighborhood Ministries Chocoholic Frolic on October 16<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. Many thanks to the 30 KCC members, family and friends who enjoyed the chocolate fountain, food, music by Marc Ferrelli and Steve Martorella during the Silent Auction. Thanks also to those contributing auction items, baked goods and \$\$ to make the benefit a super special one. The students from Louie's Place Youth Program performed well with telling what they like about the program, explaining their "rethink it" system of communication/reducing violence and bullying.

In follow up to the "Immigration in RI" presentation by Bill Shuey of the International Institute of Rhode Island, the Mission Board wishes to remind all that South Providence Ministries provides services to immigrants living in zip codes 02905 and 02907 with their food pantry, emergency support with rent and utility bills, and the Youth Program.

For Thanksgiving, as always SPNM will distribute turkeys, etc. to more than 400 families in the community. You can help by volunteering or bringing in to the church canned or fresh fruit and vegetables, tuna fish, peanut butter, pasta, spaghetti sauce, cereal, soup, cake mixes, and gift certificates for Stop & Shop or Shaw's supermarkets. To volunteer, please sign up at [Yvette@spnm.org](mailto:Yvette@spnm.org) or call Yvette Kenner, Director at 461-7509 for a time Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. We always have a rousing time escorting the neighbors through our little "store".