



A New Spirit

February 2011

North Kingstown United Methodist Church
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North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852
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Website: <http://nkumcri.com>
Rev. Lorene E. Eldredge, Pastor

FEBRUARY is

featuring Methodist Church Sierra Leone

Congregations: 244 Preaching points / posts / stations: 103 Circuits: 31
Pastors: 85 Members: 50,000



The missionary work of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Sierra Leone started in 1792, at the request of converted settlers from Nova Scotia who, on arrival in the country, had formed themselves into religious classes. A few people served as local preachers and class leaders. Personnel from the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland developed the work in the provinces. The church was part of the British Conference, and became autonomous in 1967. It undertook to continue in partnership with the church in Britain. Church membership is widely representative of all sections of the nation. There is a strong lay leadership, with increasing participation by women in responsible positions. An indigenous liturgy has developed over the past thirty years among the Mende-speaking members. Traditional marriage customs are still practiced in the Mende and other tribal family structures. There is an increasing political

awareness throughout the connection. Several lay persons hold high offices in government. Many are in the civil service, the judiciary and in medical services.

The church continues to manage many primary schools and 14 secondary schools. It also participates in the national adult literacy program. The MCSL is greatly concerned about unemployment problems, heavy migration to urban areas and the consequent growth of slums, and the urgent need for low-cost housing, safe water supply and sanitation. It runs a program on HIV/AIDS in three regions - Freetown, South and East. The church maintains the Nixon Memorial Methodist Hospital with financial aid from the Methodist Church in Great Britain. The hospital runs a nurses' training program in cooperation with the Roman Catholic hospital, and a community health project. The MCSL has opened a new community center for youth empowerment and the promotion of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Tikonko Agricultural Extension Centre teaches new skills to farmers. This is now at a low ebb as a result of the war and lack of funding. Through the joint theological hall and a lay training center the church continues to prepare its members for the ongoing mission and outreach of the Christian community in Sierra Leone. The Bunumbu Press, which has been responsible for all Christian literacy work and publication, was destroyed during the war. Progress is being made to revive the work. This program still continues to serve all the churches in Sierra Leone. The development arm of the church manages two projects in the south and east, helping communities to develop suitable food security programs. Plans are on the way to rehabilitate the Kailahun Community Development Project, the Pendembu Women's Project, and the Kissy Mission Integrated project. On February 5th, NKUMC is sewing to support the people of Kabala, site of the Nar Sarah clinic and home to 14,108 people. The war has left the people shattered but strong in faith. The effects of the war continue to pose evangelistic challenges to the church.

February Calendar

		1 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	2 9:45 Bible Study 4:00 Women's Book Study 4:45 Scouts 5:00 Scouts 7:00 Trustees	3 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 Scouts 6:00 NK Land Conservancy	4 7:00 AA 7:00 Scouts	5 8:00AM Sew-A-Thon Youth Group making Super Bowl Subs
6 8 & 10 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 12:00 Community Lunch 3:00 Youth Group	7 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	8 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir	9 9:45 Bible Study 4:00 Women's Book Study 7:00 SPRC	10 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 3:00 Blood Drive 7:00 Finance & Stewardship	11 7:00 AA	12 9:00 Valentine's Day Breakfast
Pastor Lori at CADCA Conference						
13 Scout Sunday 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 UM101 12:00 Community Lunch	14 9:30 Moms 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study	15 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir	16 9:45 Bible Study 4:00 Women's Book Study 7:00 AdMin	17 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 Scouts Newsletter Deadline- All events for for March	18 7:00 AA	19 9:30 UMW
20 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School 12:00 Community Lunch 5:00 Youth Group	21 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Book Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	12 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Scouts	23 9:45 Bible Study 4:00 Women's Book Study	24 12:00 Ladies Fellowship	25 7:00 AA	26 7:30 AM Angel Food Delivery
27 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 SS 12:00 Community Lunch 5:00 Youth Group	28 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Book Study	<i>Come help prepare and serve our Community Dinners on February 20th and 27th!</i>				

Grace Notes

by Rev. Lori Eldredge

“Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found; was blind but now I see.”

We know the tune. Around the world the hymn is sung to “New Britain”; it wasn’t always so. “Amazing Grace,” written by John Newton, has been associated with more than twenty tunes, most impossible to sing. It is thought the words were originally chanted. In the 60’s the lyrics were set to a more fun tune, the popular Coca Cola tune, “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing.” It was also set to the theme song from “Gilligan’s Island”. Scandalous we might think, but I do not believe God cares one bit! God does not care about our designations of tunes as sacred and secular. I couldn’t help but think about this a few Sundays ago when the choir sang an anthem set to jazz pianist Dave Brubeck’s “Take Five.”

Worship is an expression of our devotion and love of God through praise and prayer. It is also an opportunity to gather as community to share joys and concerns, to encourage one another, and to be renewed in spirit. Worship is commanded by God, and meant for the entire family – children, youth, and adults. This leaves a tension in worship as to what expression of worship will prevail as the generations have different preferences. Filled with movement or reminiscent of God’s “frozen chosen”? Organ or keyboard? Contemporary or traditional? Now we hear about Emergent Worship!

What is Emergent worship? It is holistic. According to an article in [Worship Arts](#) [J/F 2011] it “is not a ‘style’ referring to a particular genre of music, a specific design of gathered worship, a liturgical tradition, or a unique tone of worship. Instead, worship is approached as a holistic posture of persons and communities recognizing and responding to the presence of God.” “...general principles include an emphasis on community participation (including whole body prayers, dialogue, creative artistic engagement), utilization of musical, liturgical, and artistic sources without great anxiety about “sacred” or “secular” labeling, and combining an awareness of contemporary cultural context with a sensitivity to the practices of the historical church often including uses of the liturgical calendar and lectionary.” Emergent worship often includes communion every week. Emergent worship “embraces artistic creativity while connecting to the deeper liturgical tradition of the church.”¹

What fascinates me is the reference to the historical church. Within the Wesleyan Quadrilateral this refers to Tradition, inclusive of chanting the Psalms and reciting the ancient creeds. I believe this generation has it right. Key to any worship is our posture before the presence of God. Do we come to worship anticipating God to be present? Do we come to worship ready to bow before God and to respond to God moving among us? When we enter the sanctuary are we ready to meet God or are we so caught up in ourselves such that we are unaware of the community gathering and preparing for worship? Parishioners have said they come early to worship to pray and prepare themselves to meet God. They may also come early to sit quietly to unburden themselves from the tensions of the week. We need as a church body to respect this time.

Religions, denominations, have been divided and, in essence, bruised the body of Christ. We can do better. As we converse and learn from one another, we can affirm that we are all standing in the historic faith even as we further our understanding of faith and seek to apply it to the world in which we live and minister. We, the church, are to be spiritually formed not by the world but by the story of God. We are spiritually formed when in public worship we sing, hear God’s word, and live out God’s story. God is with us; Christ is with us. It is only for us to humbly receive God’s presence and blessing.

1. Keum Hwang, Director of Music and Fine Arts at Tyler Street UMC, Dallas Tx.

February Lectionary –

The Sermon on the Mount

February 6

Scripture: Isaiah 58: 1-9a; Psalm 112: 1-10; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12; Matthew 5: 13-20

Message: Think Globally, Shine Locally

February 13 - Scouting Sunday

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Psalm 119: 1-8; 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9; Matthew 5: 21-37

Message: What Were You Thinking?

February 20

Scripture: Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119: 33-40; 1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5: 38-48

Message: Emphasizing the Positive!

February 27

Scripture: Isaiah 49: 8-16a; Psalm 131; 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5; Matthew 6: 24-34

Message: Love Kindness

Spiritual Formation/ Inquirer's Class

United Methodism 101

Are you interested in becoming a church member? Are you interested in learning more about the United Methodist Church? Pastor Lori will offer classes in United Methodism 101 for prospective members and those wishing to review their knowledge and understanding of the UMC. We will meet the second Sundays in February, March and April, and the third Sunday in May, from 11:15 – 12:30. We will look at: February - Core Beliefs of the UMC; March - Basic Structure of the UMC; April - Our Social Principles and the Book of Resolutions; and May -The UMC on the Move. New members will be received on June 12th, Pentecost Sunday.

National CADCA Conference

Pastor Lori will be away February 7 -10th attending the National CADCA Conference in Baltimore. CADCA, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, oversees some of the funding for the North Kingstown Task Force on Wellness Committee. This committee worked with the schools to put in place the Chemical Health Policy and is working with the school committee on student parking policies. At this conference there will be a number of workshops, along with recognition of those coalitions completing the CADCA training in Denver last year. North Kingston is one of several communities in New England and the United States being recognized for their work.

Changes in the Office

Take a quick peek in the office and you will see some new furniture. The furniture was installed the week before Christmas. We thank the trustees, the UMM, Magie Cannon, Bowman Halstead, and Bruce Reirden for their help removing the old furniture, painting, and rewiring the internet system. There is an additional desk and drawer space, and lighting. You will also notice a second computer. This is for volunteers that may need space to do their work. The computer is connected to the internet and the copier. The drawers will hold materials that will be useful for various programs. As information arrives, we will file programmatic materials there. Already this work space is serving us well as we have been able to work together inputting information into the computer for our statistical reports! Members of the congregation are encouraged to use this space as they have need, leaving our Administrative Assistant's desk undisturbed. This is one way we can show Cindy appreciation as she works hard to maintain an organized, professional desk and office!



Anniversaries	
2	Bob and Nancy Mason
14	Robert and Mary Blue Hewitt
18	Rick and Pat Powers
20	Tom and Lesly Choinski
21	Robert and Sandy Brown

1	Caitlin Hickey Robert Lindberg
2	Rae Hickey Jennifer Siekiera
4	Caleb Bailey
6	Donald Dunning, Jr. Katherine Renehan
9	Jonathan Dunne Ellen Jacke Isabella Pardo Pete Pellegrino
13	Melvoid Benson
14	Ethan Bowe Christopher Hartman
15	Debra Lindberg
17	Talia DeMarco Jacquelyn Monahan
18	Paul Morrison
19	Justin Morrison Kim Page
20	Kyle Kessel Lillian Williamson
21	Christopher Davis Matthew Smith
22	Barbara Davis
23	Ken Young
24	Melody Reynolds
25	Matthew Beatty
26	Cibby Gardiner Alyssa Powers
28	Lynn Beatty Rachelle Dunning
(29)	Elizabeth Kelly

Our Condolences

To the family and friends of Lynn Cone. Lynn died Tuesday, January 18, leaving behind her Aunt Mabel and her brother Micheal.

To Bob and Sandi Brown and their family at the passing of Sandi's mother in Ohio. Sandi's mom left this life on Friday, January 21.

To the family and friends of Dorothy Scholl. Dorothy attended the Community Dinners, was a member at St. Paul's, and served on the North Kingstown Task Force on Wellness.

Special Events

Sew-A-Thon – Dresses and Britches for Little Ones – The all-day Sew-A-Thon will take place on Saturday, February 5th from 8:00AM to 8:00PM. Everyone is invited to participate- to cut, pin, sew, and encourage! If you are unable to attend, please consider sponsoring someone who will.



Ladies of NKUMC - The NKUMC United Methodist Men invite all the ladies of the Church to the 3rd Annual 'A Kiss and a Rose for Every Lady' Valentine's Day breakfast. This year the gala event will be held at 9AM on Saturday, 12 February 2011. Please plan

on joining us for this annual get-together with its good food and great fellowship. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. If you have any questions you can contact Jay Hickey or any other member of the UMM.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY

The February menu is now available online at angelfood.net
Copies are in the Narthex.
The deadline for ordering by cash, check, or EBT is 2/20.
The online deadline is 2/23.
Pick-up is 2/26
7:30 – 9:00 AM

FROM WHERE I SIT by Rev. F. Richard Garland

PAY ATTENTION!

As I listened to the news unfold out of Tucson, I was reminded of something a pastor had said once at the Memorial Service of a dear colleague in ministry who, in the full of life, had suddenly dropped dead of a heart attack: "If you're not angry, you're not paying attention!" The loss was palpable, words failed us, explanations rang hollow, rational response seemed beyond us.



In time, however, we must grieve and move forward, we must find words to express our feelings, we must seek explanations and reasons for the events, we must begin to think through to a rational response.

This is not the place to engage in a political discussion. Although, I must say, until we, as a society, find a way and a will to engage in political discourse without rancorous invective; until we find a way and a will to address the fire arms violence that now kills 30,000 Americans each year; until we find a way and a will to provide hope and healing for the isolated, alienated, and mentally ill: we can expect more events like Tucson, Virginia Tech, Columbine, and Oklahoma City. My purpose here is to deal with how people of faith come to terms with great and heart rending loss and how people of faith cope with violent events.

Anger is a normal human response. It implies deep and strong feelings aroused by injury, deprivations, unfairness, injustice, wrong, etc., that come from many sources. Why we respond the way we do to such experiences is the subject of a wide range of psychological explanations. In some instances anger can call forth resources and resolve to identify problems and to correct unjust situations. An angry person may see things more clearly and begin a movement towards correcting or healing grievances or injustices. But anger can also impair one's ability to process information and to exert control over behavior. An angry person may lose his/her objectivity, empathy, prudence or thoughtfulness and may cause harm to others. Scripture recognizes that when it counsels: "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." [Proverbs 15:1] and "Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger." [Ephesians 4:26]

The context of the passage from Ephesians is instructive. It is, to be sure, written to the early Christian Church, and it is counsel about what makes up Christian character. However, there is a larger dimension to the passage which has to do with reconciliation and the way to unity, and that applies to a larger diverse world. Three verses in particular bear on this: "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear." [4:29] "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another." [4:31-32a]

One of the great gifts of the human venture into space is that we can see ourselves for who we are. From space there is no sign of national boundaries, no hint of racial or ethnic differences, no evidence of political persuasion. We are one family living on a beautiful blue orb in the darkness of our neighborhood of the universe. We are one, and we're all that we have.

People of faith - people everywhere: It is time that we pay attention to the way we treat each other. It is time that we pay attention to the consequences of the choices we make, the priorities we hold, the behaviors we tolerate. It is time that we pay attention to the volume of our rhetoric and the potential violence it can bring. It is time that we pay attention to what's happening in our world and do our part to create a more civil, kind, and just society. We must pay attention, and move beyond the anger, or it will consume us all. Therefore, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another."

Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light
invites you to a screening of the movie

Carbon Nation

on Sunday, February 13, at 3pm
at Peace Dale Congregational Church (Fellowship Hall)
261 Columbia Street, Wakefield, RI 02879

or

St. on Wednesday, February 16, at 7pm
at Andrews Lutheran Church (in the sanctuary)
15 East Beach Road, Charlestown RI 02813, (401) 322-0088

We made this film for my Uncle Phil – a conservative who finds my liberal ways amusing. We made this film for the folks who see solutions to climate change as a national security issue – we have a chapter solely on the green hawks in the Dept. of Defense. We made this film for people who simply see huge profits to be made in energy efficiency. We made it for the great many Americans who don't want to be told they've done something wrong, but do appreciate clean air and clean water. We believe that CARBON NATION is an entertaining, non-preachy, non-partisan, positive primer about why it's incredibly smart to be part of the new, low-carbon economy: it's just good business. Above all, we believe CARBON NATION is more than a film - it is a call to action for every student, entrepreneur, home owner, church group, military base and law maker, to understand that the solutions to climate change solve many issues - issues that will matter to everyone.

This event is free and open to the public. Voluntary donations to RI-IPL will be accepted.

Get A Plan!

Some of us are great idea people! Others are great catalysts, yet sometimes our ideas don't get off the ground because we don't have a step-by-step plan for implementing the idea. Do you have an idea you would like to see implemented as part of our ministry at MKUMC but need help getting started? At our January Administrative Council Pete Pellegrino spoke about a skill set he is willing to share to help committees and groups to plan events that match up with our mission and vision statement, and record the steps for future analysis and implementation. Talk with Pete to get more information. *Just a reminder:* One of the first steps to any idea is checking the church calendar for an available date and space!

----- ✂ & save -----

Our Community ~ Our Commitment

North Kingstown Food Pantry, 450 Boston Neck Road, NK 401-294-7608

Domestic Violence Resource Center 61 Main Street, Wakefield 401-782-3995 24 Hour Help Line 782-3990

RI Student Assistance Services 300 Centerville Road Warwick 401-732-8680 www.risas.org

North Kingstown Party Tip Line 294-3316 x8411 tips@northkingstown.org Report underage drinking.

Habitat for Humanity Restore, 1555 Shannock Road, Charlestown, RI 401-213-6716

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Return Service Requested