

# A New Spirit



January 2011

North Kingstown United Methodist Church  
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Rev. Lorene E. Eldredge, Pastor



**Dresses and Britches for God's Little Ones**  
**See page 6 for an exciting opportunity!**

**Deadlines . . . Deadlines . . . Deadlines!**  
**2010 Statistical Reports – January 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**February Newsletter – January 20th**

## Softly

Softly, almost unnoticed,  
the spirit of Christ enters and becomes;  
no hysteric act displays his coming unto us.  
A man lived with us, and Christ was everywhere  
that we might search ourselves  
and give him lodging.  
The soul, the body is but a Bethlehem manger  
where Christ will come seeking birth;  
lay carefully your straw of life  
and bid him come,  
bid him enter there,  
bid him come;  
in the soft splendor of evening fires he will come;  
build your Evening fire  
and bid him come;  
a fire not tended dies and is no more;  
a fire not tended dies.  
Set no extravagant fire nor pompous feast;  
a silent evening fire and gentle manger straw  
and Jesus comes.  
Jesus enters softly.

By Rev. Wendell Luke, Jr.  
Christmas Blessings from the Board of Directors  
United Methodist Foundation of New England

Cancellation Notices due to snow emergencies will be posted on local television channels.

**May you and your loved ones know God's richest blessings in the coming year.**

## January Calendar

						1 Happy New Year!
2 <b>Epiphany Sunday</b> 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS	3 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	4 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir	5 9:45 Bible Study 4:00 Women's Book Study 4:45 Scouts 5:00 Scouts 7:00 Trustees	6 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 Scouts 6:00 NK Land Conservancy	7 7:00 AA 7:00 Scouts	8 8:00 Men's Breakfast
9 <b>Baptism of our Lord</b> 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group	10 9:30 Moms 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 6:45 Scouts 7:00 Bible Study	11 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir	12 9:45 Bible Study 4:00 Women's Book Study 7:00 SPRC	13 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 7:00 Finance/Stewardship	14 7:00 AA	15 9:30 UMW 5 All Church Game Night
16 <b>Human Relations Day</b> 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 UM 101	17 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Advent Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	18 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	19 9:45 Bible Study 4:00 Women's Book Study 7:00 AdMin	20 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 Scouts <b>Deadline for February Newsletter</b>	21 7:00 AA <b>Deadline for 2010 Statistical Reports</b>	22
23 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 SS 5:00 Youth Grp 7:00 Scouts	24 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Advent Study	25 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir 7:00 Scout Leaders	26 9:45 Bible Study 4:00 Women's Book Study	27 12:00 Ladies Fellowship	28 7:00 AA	29 7:30 Angel Food Delivery 9:00 NK Genealogy Society
30 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 SS 11:00 Celebrate Jerry Williamson's 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday	31 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study					



## *Grace Notes* by Rev. Lori Eldredge

The new year is upon us and, is often the custom, we may have prepared a list of resolutions. These lists include all sorts of things. I'm still thinking about those beautiful words from John 10:10, "I have come that you may have life and have life abundantly." These were shared by our District Superintendent along with, "Enjoy life."

It sounds so easy, yet in hard times, so difficult. The good news is our life in Christ is not dependent on worldly, or secular circumstances. Secularism tells us to adapt our faith to the world. Our faith tells us to transcend worldly cares and focus on Christ and building the kingdom. In our faith community we have so much to be thankful for, especially for the hope we have of being forever united with Christ - beginning now. When so many religions and cults disagree about end times, we can focus on living rightly today! Our life in Christ begins new each day.

Living for today, living in the moment, in the Spirit affords us spontaneity and allows us to encourage new program, talent, and ideas. In order for this to happen many larger churches fund a R & D fund, Research and Development. When the spirit strikes funds are available to support the program so momentum and enthusiasm are not lost. I'm not proposing an R & D fund but I would raise the question: How do we encourage and support new ministries? How do we share ideas? How do we move ideas forward? When we move an idea forward who does it effect? As United Methodists we are known for our order. John Wesley had a method for everything! Order can bring enjoyment to our lives, as does living in the spirit. We need room for both.

When we know who we can talk to about concerns or where we can share an idea, we are more apt to enjoy ourselves. We can let go of the stresses, etc. Printed in the Charge Conference Booklet are the names of our church leaders. (We have some booklets left over in the church office, if you did not get one.) Also posted in the Narthex will be names with pictures so that you may be more connected with those you do not already know. As we live together in community and share the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, we need to be in conversation and relationship. My door is open to members of the congregation and community alike, and my desire is to be able to encourage you in your life and in your ministry.

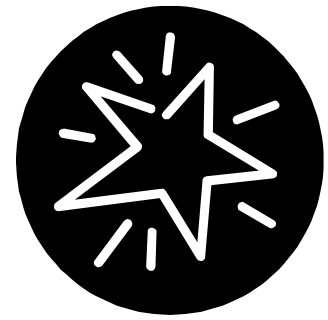
My hope for 2011 is that we will birth many new ideas for ministry. There is a lot of need in North Kingstown and Rhode Island, as well as New England and the world. If you have an idea, either focused at our membership or directed toward outreach, come and talk with me or talk with Administrative Council Leaders. Be proactive and let's see how together we can advance the kingdom of Christ!

Blessings for a wonderful New Year,

Pastor Lori

## **January Lectionary**

## **Season After The Epiphany**



### **January 2 Family Sunday & Epiphany Sunday**

*Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3: 1 -12;*

*Matthew 2: 1-12*

*Message: The Richness of God's Grace*

### **January 9 Baptism of our Lord**

*Scriptures: Isaiah 42: 1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 3; 13 -17*

*Message: Wading in the Water*

### **January 16 Human Relations Sunday**

*Scriptures: Isaiah 49: 1-7; Psalm 40: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42*

*Message: What Are You Hoping For?*

### **January 23**

*Scriptures: Isaiah 9: 1-4; Psalm 27: 1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23*

*Message: Net -Works*

### **January 30**

*Scriptures: Micah 6: 1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31; Matthew 5: 1-12*

*Message: The Paradox of Blessings*

## **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 third of January, the second Sundays in March and April, and the third Sunday in May, from 11:15 – 12:30. We will look at:*

*January - A Brief History of the UMC*

*February - Core Beliefs of the UMC*

*March - Basic Structure of the UMC*

*April - Our Social Principles and the Book of Resolutions*

*May - The UMC on the Move*

*Classes will take place in the back Sunday School room, and new members will be received on June 12<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday.*

## ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY

The January menu is now available online at [angelfood.net](http://angelfood.net). Copies are in the Narthex.

The deadline for ordering by cash, check, or EBT is January 21st. The online deadline is January 23rd.



We will celebrate Jerry Williamson's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> with an extended coffee hour and potluck following the 10AM service.

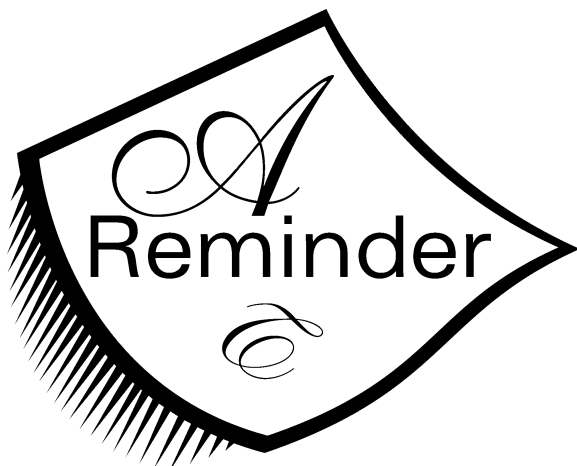
### *Thank you to the NKUMC family . . .*

Dear NKUMC church family,  
I would like to thank everyone for the generosity you expressed through your cards, notes, and gifts received for my birthday and at Christmas. You are a blessing to me! May God bless you in 2011.  
Pastor Lori

Many thanks to the congregation for the generous Christmas bonus this year. It was a very nice surprise and greatly appreciated.  
Paul

Dear friends,  
Thank you so much for your very surprising and generous Christmas gift. It's my pleasure to work here with you.  
Cindy

- 2 Grace Dallas  
Nick Dewhurst  
Claudia Galgoczy
- 3 Travis Price
- 7 Diane Gledhill  
Elaine Roffo
- 8 Richard Dunne  
Zandra Matthews
- 9 Nancy Mason
- 10 Aiden Horan  
Rodney Olson  
Lauren Ponte
- 12 Joni Lynch
- 13 Christine Washburn
- 14 Mark Moffett
- 16 Sandra Horan
- 17 Jared Stearns
- 20 Frances Wood
- 21 Julia DeMarco  
Chet Thomas
- 22 Rachel Brown
- 24 Kaitlyn Horan  
Kyle Horan
- 25 Steven Cihat  
Jay Sperry
- 26 Jim Moon
- 27 Rev. F. Richard Garland  
Mark Zaccaria
- 29 John Dearlove  
Betty Grady  
Carolyn MacGregor  
Bess Rhodin  
Herbert Stevens
- 30 Jon Eaton  
Bryan Kamerzel
- 31 Sarah Beatty  
Gerald Williamson



**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20<sup>th</sup>.  
2010 STATISTICAL REPORTS ARE DUE  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21<sup>st</sup>.**



## *Dresses and Britches for God's Little Ones*

### *NKUMC WOMEN SEW-A-THON FOR SIERRA LEONE*

*The need is great yet "sew" simple.*

*The women of our church are being challenged to help clothe the children who live within walking distance of the Nar-Sarah Clinic, run by Dorcas and Daniel Kamanda in Sierra Leone. Our church has a 5 year relationship with this area, and the more we learn the more we recognize the simple things that we can do to make a big difference.*

*The Nar Sarah Boutique has brought us the artistry of the women in the village of Kabala, the birthing kits have helped to bring babies into the world safely, and now we will sew dresses and britches for God's Little Ones. The Sew-A-Thon needs many hands.*

*Our goal is to sew on Saturday, February 5  
8:00 AM "sharp" to 8:00 PM.*

*Women of all ages are welcome to participate*

*We will break the sew-a-thon with Holy Communion and a light meal. Read below to see how you can be a part of this exciting mission.*

### *SO...How can you participate in this challenge?*

- 1. Sign up to sew/cut and or pin together dresses + britches for the 12 hour sew-a thon and get sponsors.*
- 2. If you can not sew at the church - Sign up and get sponsor forms to sew for the 12 hour sew-a thon and sew at home.*
- 3. Donate 3 yards of light cotton fabric: colorful prints appropriate for boys and/or girls - no cartoon characters please. Be culturally sensitive. Cloth can also be purchased through the Sierra Leone Boutique.*
- 4. Donate new pillow cases.*
- 5. Provide those who are sewing at the church with snacks and beverages.*
- 6. Be a sponsor (suggested sponsorship \$10.00).*

## 7. Pray for the children and those who care for them.

Patterns will be available for those who choose to sew at home as well as those who will sew at church. For more information or clarification see Nina Dunne, Paula Wilberger, Diana Warburton and Pastor Lori.

*Sponsor forms and money are to be turned in on February 13 at both worship services. Sponsor forms are available in the Narthex and the church office. Make checks payable to NKUMC – UMW.*

**FROM WHERE I SIT** by Rev. F. Richard Garland

### GOD TREASURES OUR FAITHFULNESS

The making of “New Year's Resolutions” has become a lost art, something of a quaint throwback to a bygone era. Covenant renewal services, once such an important part of many faith traditions, are seldom held now, or sparsely attended. The thought of new beginnings at the beginning of a new year has a nice ring to it, but one wonders, if it is practical or even possible any more.

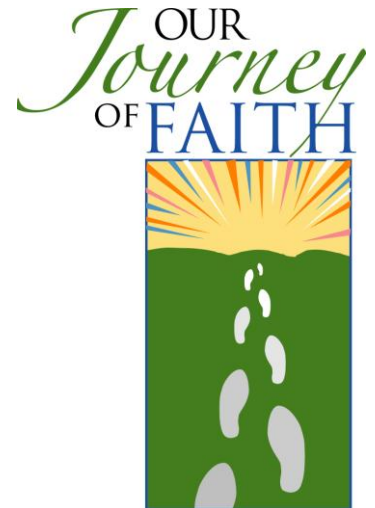
That said, Biblical faith is always about new beginnings. The story of creation is about new beginnings. God's promise to Abraham and Sarah that they would bring forth a new people is about new beginnings. The exodus and the promised land is about new beginnings. Prophetic images of exile and restoration is about new beginnings. The story of the birth of Jesus, his life and teaching, his death and resurrection, is about new beginnings. The gift of the Holy Spirit and the formation of the community of faith is about new beginnings. Jeremiah [31:33] reminds us that new beginnings involve covenant: “This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

But, while it is hard to argue against the value of and our need for covenant renewal, even new year's resolutions, clearly something isn't working today.

In the introduction to his new book, “Finding Jesus on the Metro and other surprises doing church in a new day,” Paul Nixon writes: “Beyond understanding the world better, and even beyond figuring out effective ministry strategies for new situations, we do well to remember that we are on a spiritual journey with God! In every new era, regardless of how valiantly we succeed or fail in the tasks of sharing Christ's good news, extending social justice, and building vibrant faith communities, we who come together as church share in a holy journey. On this journey, God treasures our faithfulness more than our accomplishments.” He goes on to observe: “We are journeying with God into unknown territory, just like Abraham did. We remember and celebrate Abraham for his faithfulness - and for God's faithfulness to him - not for any particular personal accomplishments that he achieved apart from God.”

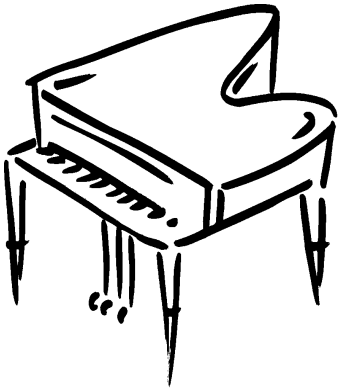
Intriguing! A spiritual journey with God! One, at the end of which, God treasures our faithfulness more than our accomplishments!

Suppose, just suppose, that, at the beginning of the new year, we saw ourselves as embarking on a journey with God. How might that shape the way we live our daily round? And suppose, just suppose, that as we are



walking with God, we discover that God treasures our faithfulness more than our accomplishments. How might that shape the way we live out our faith? Perhaps we need to begin our journey with God through the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eleven by prayerfully discerning where God would like us to be at the end of the year. And perhaps we need to begin our journey with the realization that we are richly blessed to be walking with God in the first place. Let us begin by trusting God who, at Christmas, became Immanuel. Let us give sign of our faithfulness in the new year by walking with vision and purpose, and by walking in covenant with God, even if it leads us into unknown territory.

As we are willing to savor a spiritual journey with God, the accomplishments will come, and, importantly, they will be achieved in covenant with God. As God treasures our faithfulness more than our accomplishments, we will be able to treasure God's faithfulness to us. As we walk humbly with God in our journey of faith, we will together be able to do justice and love kindness. With that prospect in view it will be a very good year indeed!



**A note from Paul Mancini** – The new Cable-Nelson piano, which made its debut on Christmas Eve, is a gift from the Orchard Church in Cranston. I was told that if I could move it, I could keep it. After over 100 years in Cranston, the church membership has declined, and they have sold the property and church building to the Armenian Apostolic Church of Providence, which will be moving to the new properties in Cranston in the Spring.

**Volunteers Needed!** – The NK Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to work the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th Monday evening of each month and also the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday evening of each month. Exact times are negotiable to meet individual schedules. If you are interested and able to fill any of these three time slots, please call the Pantry number, 294-7608, and leave a message. Volunteering is a wonderful way to give to your community, and the help is greatly appreciated.

### **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](http://www.risas.org)

North Kingstown Party Tip Line 294-3316 x8411 [tips@northkingstown.org](mailto: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