



A New Spirit

May 2011

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

On the Tuesday following Easter, 2001, Walter Brueggemann opened a seminary class with this prayer, "We are baffled," found in his book of prayers titled Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth.

Christ is Risen

He is risen indeed!

We are baffled by the very Easter claim we voice.

Your new life fits none of our categories.

We wonder and stew and argue,

and add clarifying adjectives like "spiritual" and "physical."

But we remain baffled, seeking clarity and explanation,

we who are prosperous, and full and safe and tenured.

We are baffled and want explanations.

But there are those not baffled, but stunned by the news,

stunned while at minimum wage jobs;

stunned while the body wastes in cancer;

stunned while the fabric of life rots away in fatigue and despair;

stunned while unprosperous and unfull

and unsafe and untenured...

Waiting only for you in your Easter outfit,

waiting for you to say, "Fear not, it is I."

Deliver us from our bafflement and our many explanations.

Push us over into stunned need and show yourself to us lively.

Easter us in honesty;

Easter us in fear;

Easter us in joy,

and let us be Eastered. Amen. (162)

May Calendar

1 8 & 10 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 30 hour famine ends 1:00 Community Dinner	2 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	3 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir	4 4:00 Women's Book Study 4:45 Scouts 5:00 Scouts 7:00 Trustees	5 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 NK Land Conservancy 6:00 Scouts	6 6:00 Scouts	7 9:00 Sewing
8 8 & 10 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School 1:00 Community Dinner	9 9:00 Moms 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study	10 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir	11 4:00 Women's Book Study 7:00 SPRC	12 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 7:00 Finance	13	14 8:00 Men's Breakfast
			NK Parent & Teacher Program			
15 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 UM101 11:30 Music from the Heart 1:00 Community Dinner 5:00 Youth Group	16 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	17 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir	18 4:00 Women's Book Study 4:45 Scouts 5:00 Scouts 7:00 AdMin	19 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 Scouts 7:00 Music from the Heart Newsletter Deadline- All events for for June	20	21 7:30 AM Angel Food Distribution 9:30 UMW
22 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School 1:00 Community Dinner 4:00 Scouts	23 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Book Study	24 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:30 Moms 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	25 4:00 Women's Book Study	26 12:00 Ladies Fellowship	27	28
29 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School 11:30 Music from the Heart 1:00 Community Dinner	30 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Book Study	31 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Scout Leaders				

Grace Notes

by Rev. Lori Eldredge



“I give thanks for all of you...”, these are the words written by Paul to the saints of the churches. I give thanks for all of you, saints of North Kingstown UMC! We have journeyed through Lent and Holy Week with some wonderful experiences in study and worship.

Two book studies brought us to a deeper understanding of The Last Week and the 24 Hours that Changed the World. Thank you Al Brown and Bob Mason for leading these studies.

Palm Sunday we worshipped in-the-round, allowing for the dramatization of the gospel and allowing everyone to be no more than a few pews away from the action. From the Gates of Jerusalem with palm branches, to the house of Caiaphas and the court of Pilate, the congregation could imagine themselves as present at the events that led to Jesus crucifixion.

On Maundy Thursday we were able to experience the Seder and understand how Jesus instituted Holy Communion. The bread he broke after the supper was most likely the Afikomen, the remainder of the unleavened bread that was broken and hidden earlier. The cup he took and blessed was most probably Elijah’s cup; it would have been the only cup as yet untouched. After the Seder we joined in Holy Communion and heard, “Were You There?” Good Friday the church was as silent as the tomb.

What a glorious day we experienced on Easter Sunday! No sunrise at the town beach, but we sang and heard the familiar scripture of Mary at the tomb. It did shine brightly later in the day. At 10 AM we were blessed to share in the tradition of the early church and witness a baptism, the baptism of Liam Thomas Gannon.

I want to thank everyone who helped in the preparation for these services: Bowman Halstead, Hunter Halstead, Marina Dermanouelian, Ashley Reese, Jason Young, Sami Dallas and sisters Carly, Grace, and Safiatu; Tyler Pelligrino, Jeff Dallas, Cibby Gardiner, Ruth Sperry, Paula Wilberger, Paula Martasian, Mark Zaccaria, Mark Dermanouelian, Ellen Jacke, Isabelle Hayes, Richard Dunne, Jon Eaton, and the choir.

Finally, a special word of thanks to our staff, Paul Mancini, Sr. and Cindy Farrell-Starbuck, for writing special music and for proofing and printing all the bulletins, scripts, and booklets!

I want to share a few thoughts about the new worship arrangement. The vast majority of the congregation received the change favorably! A few did not. Whether we liked the change or not, moving the pews is not about us; it is about creating an atmosphere of welcome and connection [relating to one another] for the next generation and our visitors and opening up space for experiential worship [drama, etc.]. On Saturday of Holy Week our church was SRO for a memorial service. The immediate comment made by the family who lost their daughter was, “We could look in everyone’s faces and feel the love and support. We felt such a connection to everyone present even though we did not know most of our daughter’s friends and colleagues from R.I..”

Isn’t that what we want when we come to worship? Do we not want to feel the love and support of the congregation? For worship to be real we need to connect. As we connect, we are better able to connect with our neighbors and those we meet in community. When we come to worship we come to bring our praise and joy; sometimes to bring our pain and sadness. How can we know when we cannot see another’s face?

Martin Buber wrote in *I and Thou* that God is in the connection where we meet each other - in the in-between; this is where we meet God!

May God bless us in this Season of Easter! Pastor Lori

Lectionary for May ~ The Season of Easter

May 1 Second Sunday of Easter

Text: Acts 2:14a, 22–32; Psalm 16 (UMH 748); 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31

Sermon: Living Witnesses

May 8 Third Sunday of Easter

Text: Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 (UMH 837); 1 Peter 1:17–23; Luke 24:13–35

Sermon: First Steps

May 15 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Text: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137); 1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10

Sermon: Now What?

May 22 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Text: Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 (UMH 764); 1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

Sermon: Living Stones

May 29 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Text: Acts 17:22–31; Psalm 66:8–20 (UMH 790); 1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21

Sermon: Making Connections



SPRITUAL FORMATION MINI-ACADEMY

“MUSIC FROM THE HEART”

Presented by Stephen and Karen Finlan



A 3-day event of spiritual sharing.

What song has moved you from the heart?

What song has marked a passage in your life?

What song has spoken about God in a special way?

What song has given you hope?

What song speaks to your heart about painful feelings?

Bring a song (or three!) on CD or tape, or that you can sing, and tell the story of what it means to you, why it is special.

This is not a performance, but a time of sharing.

Music moves us, and that is part of our spiritual lives.

The song can be from any genre, and the story from any meaningful time in your life.

Let's use music to speak from the heart.

Come to one session, or to all three. Sundays May 15th and 29th from 11:30 – 12:30 and Thursday May 19th from 7:00 – 8:00.

COMMUNITY DINNERS GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

Background:

Two years ago the clergy participating in ecumenical events in North Kingstown identified a need from their respective congregations and interactions with the greater North Kingstown community for providing a warm meal in the winter time. There are many reasons why a person might have a need to eat in community. Some include people eating alone who are in need of fellowship, a spiritual boost, if you will. Some join us because of the hard economic times and life circumstances that necessitate that they stretch their dollars, and, at least once a week, they do not have to choose between eating a good, balanced meal and paying for medications or other day-to-day expenses. We hear about cut backs and reductions in the services and care provided to seniors. And, yes, there are homeless, poor and those living in compromised arrangements like a room in a motel with no way to cook who need a place to come. The reasons are many and those from the 5 churches wanting to respond to the needs of our neighbors are participating in this beginning program to provide a community meal. It is an opportunity to bring people together for fellowship, no judgments, and to serve our neighbors by feeding them in body and spirit. We welcome all.

Serving the Community at NKUMC: How can you help?

The NKUMC Community invites all to participate in our local mission to serve those in North Kingstown in our commitment to provide a meal on Sundays starting May 1 and running throughout the summer until the fall program begins. Last year, we hosted the Easter dinner at NKUMC, and we were asked to please continue this program throughout the summer. One of the regular participants gave a very moving speech on how grateful he was and how much they needed to come together each week. We are responding to that request this year. We are in communication with interested churches to participate in this ecumenical effort. They will help as they are able this summer. We are providing the May Calendar with places for you to sign up where there is a need. Those interested in this local mission work have been meeting this spring and clarifying the roles of hosting, serving, cooking, clean-up, and coordinator. In our discussions we have identified a common call to serve those sent to us by ministering to their food, emotional and spiritual needs. There are many small tasks that can be accomplished each week. We welcome all and encourage you to talk to any on the team and speak to some of the coordinators who include Pastor Lori, (294-9293) Dave Beutel (884-7854), Jay Hickey (884-5243) and Paula J. Martasian (741 – 8222)

Community Dinners for North Kingstown:

Host Protocol

- Have someone to greet serving group
- Provide name and phone number for contact person if questions arise
- Have coffee set up and ready to start, if not started already (minimum of one hour before dinner)
 - Provide sugar / creamers
- Have kitchen ready for needed tasks
- Demonstrate cooking/warming facilities
- Show where cooking utensils are located
- Demonstrate dishwashing system
- Have tables and chairs set up
 - Table cloths
 - Salt and Pepper shakers
 - Show group where tables/chairs should go after program
- Take care of trash
 - Show serving group where trash goes and where spare bags are stored**
 - Show serving group where brooms, mops for spills and clean-up are stored
- Janitorial services
- Lock up afterward

Serving Protocol

Provide contact names and phone numbers to host church

Contact Host Church by Wed. of the week serving to clarify

- ❖ When church will be available for bread and dessert delivery from Stop and Shop in Narragansett
- ❖ When church is available on serving day for cooking and serving team to be present
- ❖ If needed, set up a time to walk through kitchen to know how things work and what utensils, cooking pots / pans, etc. are available

Organize menu, food purchase and preparation

Pick up bread and desserts from Narragansett Stop and Shop on Sat. prior to 9:00AM and deliver to host church or store and bring on Sunday.*

Bring food to host church

Set table with dishes and silverware

Serve food to participants

Clear tables

Wash dishes

Take care of trash**

Put tables and chairs where host requests

Make sure building is secure

*Tasks that can be shared but need to be clear ahead of time.

May 2011

Sunday	Coordinators	Prep / Set Up	Cooks	Clean Up
1 Grilled Hamburgers/Hot Dogs/ Veggie Option Beans / Potato Salad Tossed Salad / Fruit Salad	Paula J. Martasian Dave Beutel	Paula and Youth table set ups Jay providing grill, meats, buns and condiments ahead of time	Dave grilling and making fruit salad Lori and Chris B.– Potato salads Bonnie Seekell – Baked Beans Dave cooking Dallas Team - Salad	Chris B.
8 Grilled Chicken/Veggie Option Mac and Cheese Corn /Grilled Asparagus Fruit Salad	PJ & Dave		Jay – Chicken Mac and Cheese Chris B. Fruit Salad Paula W. Corn Marilyn M. Asparagus Dave	Chris B. PJ
15 Grilled Pork/Veggie Option Roasted Potato slices Macaroni Salad Green Beans/Apple Sauce	PJ & Jay			PJ
22 Pot Luck/Casseroles/soups but with a plan Pasta / Rice / Corn Bread Tossed Salad / Fruit Salad				
29 Picnic, Egg Salad, Deli Meats, Watermelon, etc	PJ			PJ

CALLING ALL GREEN THUMBS...

You needn't be a Master Gardener to help our Food Pantry garden grow. The plan is to grow greens to share with the Pantry and the Community Dinners. Turning the soil and planting are first in order. Then a variety of tasks will be awaiting your attention; weeding, mulching, watering and harvesting, to name a few. This will happen at the garden, which is located behind our parsonage. Many hands will keep the garden growing and help us have a healthy harvest to share with our neighbors in need. All are invited to help, individuals and families; this is a great learning experience. If you can help make our garden grow please contact one of us:

Dave Beutel
884-7854

Paula Martasian
885-3773

Marilyn Moffett
294-2188



FROM WHERE I SIT by Rev. F. Richard Garland

THE SHINING EYES OF FAITH

Benjamin Zander, who is the conductor of Boston Philharmonic, has two infectious passions: classical music and helping people realize an untapped love for it. A YouTube video of his presentation, **“Classical Music with Shining Eyes,”** has been viewed nearly a half million times. The video bubbles with his ardor and his belief that we all have an untapped love of new possibilities, new experiences, new connections.

He tells the story of how, after 20 years of conducting, he suddenly came to a new understanding of his role as a conductor. It started with the realization that in an orchestra the conductor doesn't make any sound. “He depends for his power on his ability to make other people powerful.” Zander says: “I realized that my job was

to awaken possibility in other people.” Then he takes it a step further by posing a question: How do you know that? That you have awakened possibility in others? “The answer is,” he says, “You look at their eyes. If their eyes are shining, you're doing it.” “Success,” he says is not about wealth, fame, or power. It's about how many shining eyes I have around me.”

As I watched the video and reflected on his insight about the real measure of success, I found myself thinking about churches and people of faith and the gospel. I can picture Jesus surrounded by shining eyes - the eyes of those he healed, the eyes of those he fed, the eyes of those he comforted, the eyes of those in whom he awakened hope, the eyes of those he called. I remember people in churches I have been privileged to serve - the shining eyes of children at a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, the shining eyes of youth as they began to spread their wings of faith, the shining eyes of folks engaged in scripture for the first time, the shining eyes of those who saw a connection between their faith and a world of need. Dare I say it? Say that our churches would be healthier if they were filled with the shining eyes of faith?

The glory of Easter and the power of Pentecost are always more than festival days on a church calendar, and should be. They are witnesses to the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The presence of the Risen Lord and the coming of the Holy Spirit transformed those who experienced it, and the world could not help but see their shining eyes of faith.

And what do people see when they see us? Just as success is not about wealth or fame or power, neither is faithfulness about riches or grand buildings filled with nice people. Marty Haugen had it right when he wrote:

“Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light-years away, but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in - all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.” Jesus came that we might have life, and have it in all of its abundance. “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. [Mt 5:16]

We sing, and we should: “Lord, the light of your love is shining in the midst of the darkness shining; Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me.” But there's another part of the gospel story that we are also called to sing: “This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. Everywhere I go... All through the night...” We can bask in the Glory of the Lord, but we are also called to reflect that radiance. Charles Wesley put it nicely: “Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief; more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.” Amen! Let us go into the world with the shining eyes of faith.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Spring Yard Sale - Time for spring cleaning but don't throw out those forgotten treasures. We're having a yard sale on Saturday, June 4th. Please speak with Cathy Morrison if you can help with the Yard Sale. We will also have a **Rummage Sale!** Please only bring clothes in good, wearable condition. Clothes left at the end of the day will be sent to Big sisters, Project Outreach, Reach Out♥and other charitable organizations.

National Day of Prayer

All across our nation in churches and public venues, hearts and hands will be joined together on Thursday, May 5, for the 60th annual National Day of Prayer. The event in North Kingstown will take place at 12:00 noon at Veterans Park, across the street from the North Kingstown Town Hall.

This year's theme, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God,” is based on Psalm 91:2: “I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” “God is our refuge in times of trouble, and as His people, we are appointed to pray for our generation and period in history.” (Shirley Dobson, Chairman NDP Task Force).

We hope this message will not only encourage God's people to take prayer for our nation seriously, but that it will also draw believers closer together as they intercede on behalf of our country. For more information you may visit the website at www.nationaldayofprayer.org. For other Rhode Island Day of Prayer events see www.prayri.org.

INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP

JULY 10 – 17

We will return to Livermore Falls to extend mission to the community. More information is available in the church office.

If your birthday and/or anniversary date is incorrect or if you would like yours added, please notify the church office.

May Anniversaries

- 4 Jon and Sharon Eaton
Peter Pellegrino and Kim Page
- 10 Dan and Diana Dwane
- 10 Doug and Donna Brown
- 15 Roland and Amy Duhaime
- 25 Paul and Lori Brunelle
- 28 Sydney and Diane Gledhill
Chet and Cora Thomas
Alan and Jan Brown
Cyndi and Nick Dewhurst
Kevin and Kathy Koziol
Kevin and Sarah McGovern
Thomas and Amanda Alberg

Congratulations!

We welcome Angus Marek Bray born April 6th in Colorado. He is the first grandchild of Dave Beutel and Robin Marek.

Angel Food Ministry

On-site orders are due by 2:00PM on 5/13.
Online orders are due by 11:59PM on 5/15.
Distribution will be 7:30AM – 9:00AM on 5/21

To members of the North Kingstown United Methodist Church:

Please accept my deepest appreciation for the memory book of notes of sympathy which was assembled for me following the loss of my dear, dear niece, Lynn Cone. The book indeed is a treasure.

Lynn and I had always had a great relationship. We enjoyed any time we were together, whether at her home, my home, out of town, telephone, shopping, movies, church – no matter where, it was great being together.

I was pleased and excited when Lynn invited me to live with her after her father died, and we looked forward to a wonderful life together. Lynn's illness and hospitalization were totally unexpected, and I truly believed that, given time, she would recover and we would resume our togetherness. However, God had other plans for Lynn.

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
Mabel A. Fowler

May Birthdays

- 1 David Bailey
Joshua Lavornia
- 2 Mira DiSilvestro
Cameron Lindberg
- 3 Kaitlin Young
Madison Young
- 4 Mary Blue Hewitt
David Warburton
- 5 Julian Galgoczy
- 8 Gail Carmichael
Abbey Dallas
Samantha Dallas
- 10 Ruth Sperry
- 12 Brenda Moyer
- 14 Hudson Reynolds
- 15 Douglas Piehler
- 17 Ruth Zaccaria
Lisa Bowe
Meghan Kruger
- 19 Charlie Seekell
- 20 Nicholas Sernberger
- 21 Barbara Piehler
- 22 Casey Whitehead
- 23 Donna Brown
- 25 Mike Wilberger
- 26 Sheri Smith
- 27 Andrew Martasian
Alexandra Lewis
- 28 Cathy Morrison
- 29 Erika DeGraphenried
Brandon Hagerty
- 30 Rebecca Laders
- 31 Jessie Kuster
John Warburton

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST RI STUDENTS/FAMILIES WITH COSTS OF EDUCATION

Do you – or someone you know – need help with the costs of education? The Rhode Island Foundation, thanks to hundreds of generous individuals who value education, may be able to help.

The Foundation administers more than 150 scholarship funds to assist students from middle school to post-graduate study and from every city and town in Rhode Island with the costs of education. Last year alone, the Foundation distributed nearly \$1 million in scholarship assistance to Rhode Islanders.

Some of the scholarships are for specific geographic regions such as the Bernard and Henrietta O'Rourke Scholarship for residents of Lincoln, RI. (See the story at right to learn about one of last year's O'Rourke Scholarship recipients.) Others target specific schools such as the Lawrence, Allen, Singletary Scholarship for Hope High School or Central High School graduating seniors (or renewal applicants). Still others are designated for specific groups such as the Major Jeremiah P. Murphy Scholarship for the children of active, retired, or deceased Providence police officers.

Individuals applying for many scholarships at the Foundation – both new and renewal applicants – should apply through a new online system. Applications for other Foundation-administered scholarship funds should be submitted directly to a school or organization.

The scholarship section of the Foundation website provides detailed information, including a directory of all Foundation-administered scholarships with eligibility criteria, application information, and deadlines; an eligibility questionnaire; and access to the online application system.



Calling all Bowlers!



South County Habitat for Humanity Bowl-a-Thon

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Old Mountain Lanes in Wakefield

Two time choices for your team: 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm

Grab five friends and form a team!

Free Pizza and Soft Drinks for all Bowlers & Family Members

Prizes awarded to Top Fundraisers & Top Scores!

21 Years of Building Decent Affordable Family Homes

Help us continue our work in South County and around the world. Get your registration & pledge forms online www.southcountyhabitat.org . Form a team. Get at least \$50 in pledges. To guarantee a lane send us your completed team registration form by Friday, May 13th to: E-Mail: schabitat@southcountyhabitat.org; Fax: 213-6715;

USPS: PO Box 68, Shannock, RI 02875

For additional information you may call the South County Habitat Office 213-6711

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Return Service Requested