

A New Spirit



August 2010

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



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August Calendar

1 Communion 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 9:15 Choir 10 Children's Church Alt.	2 10 S.A.T. Prep 6:45 Shepherding 7 NK Photo Guild 7 Bible Study	3 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA	4 10 S.A.T. Prep 7:00 Trustees	5 12:00 Ladies Fellowship	6 10 S.A.T. Prep	7 10 S.A.T. Prep
8 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 9:15 Choir 10:00 Children's Church Alt.	9 10 S.A.T. Prep 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study	10 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA	11 10 S.A.T. Prep	12 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 7:00 Finance & Stewardship	13 10 S.A.T. Prep 5:00 Wedding Rehearsal	14 8:00 UMM 10:00 S.A.T Prep 4:00 Wedding
		Mission Trip		Pastor Lori Away		
15 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 9:15 Choir 10:00 Children's church Alt.	16 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	17 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA	18 7:00 Ad Min Council	19 12:00 Ladies Fellowship	20	21 9:30 UMW
22 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 9:15 Choir 10:00 Children's Church Alt.	23 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study	24 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Membership Class	25 7:00 Membership Class	26 12:00 Ladies Fellowship	27	28 7:30 – 9:-00 Angel Food Pick-Up
29 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 9:15 Choir 10:00 Children's Church Alt.	30 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study	31 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Membership Class				

Children's Church Alternative at 10:00 AM "The Ballad of Bullheaded Billy"

Learn a new telling of the Prodigal Son.

Grace Notes

by Rev. Lori Eldredge

In my ministry I have served in two larger churches, one small church, and two medium churches. This refers to both the size of the congregation and the size of the building. Whatever the size of the church or congregation, the key to ministry in each place was the relationships formed in small groups. Here participants were encouraged to grow using their gifts, setting them free for joyful worship and service.

Worship is the central act of the congregation, the most important gathering of the week for the church family. We gather and direct our praise and worship to God. In other words, God is the audience! We are the actors and actresses offering our gifts to God. On too many Sundays, in too many places, the majority of the congregation is passive, expecting the pastor and/or a limited number of persons to lead and serve up worship to the congregation. While we may come to be renewed in spirit, the best way to do this is by offering our best self to God through active participation in worship. When we are invested in worship, we are enriched.

Worship is influenced by worship space. My first appointment included a small chapel and two country churches. That chapel would have fit inside the chapel in my last appointment. Both chapels offered more intimate worship, while the country and city churches allowed more space for the worship arts: dance, banners, processions, drama, bands, and other musical offerings. The close proximity of the chapel prompted bonds of fellowship and friendship; it's in these groups participants strengthened the bonds of Christian love. The openness of the larger church promoted worship teams of choirs, bells, dance, and drama. Individuals experiencing the nudge of the spirit might participate in a production of "Everyman" or of "Jesus Christ Superstar."

From time to time we need to stop and evaluate our worship space, answering questions such as: Is our space invitational? Does our worship space limit worship? Who are we excluding, limiting, or hiding? Is everyone able to use their gifts in worship? What or who dominates the focal point of our worship area? What does this say about what we believe is most important in our worship life? Does this space allow each of us to worship, offering our devotion with integrity?

Involvement in worship goes beyond being the liturgist or participating as usher and greeter. Participation is singing the songs, old and new, and allowing them to fill your soul. The older hymns are familiar and some easier to sing, while newer songs appeal to younger congregants. (A healthy combination welcomes everyone in worship!) The worship arts take many forms and while they may not appeal to all, they do have benefits beyond the worship setting. As children participate in dance, singing, bells, or drama they grow in confidence; and they learn that they too have gifts to offer God and the community. Teens and adults reap the same benefits. These gifts stay with them throughout their lives and their experience directly correlates to their faith.

NKUMC has an adult choir and a children's bell choir. We have room to expand the worship arts. We draw on people from a lot of different areas and we have diverse interests and talents. Starting a worship arts team (a new choir, a banner ministry, or tech team) requires only an expression of interest. As people express interest they can be matched together. Worship arts expand the auditory to the visual and tactile, moving worship to the experiential. We may admire the stain glass, but when we create banners worship becomes experiential. (This is one of the reasons those who helped build the church are highly invested in worship. Can we deny those newer to the congregation the same experience?) We may appreciate the chancel choir: we can also appreciate a dance team or a drama group. As we discern worship at NKUMC, my hope is that we may come face to face with the glory of God, participating in worship offering all our gifts and all of ourselves.

JULY WAS A MONTH OF CONGRATULATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS AT NKUMC



EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

Congratulations to Matthew Beatty, son of Bob and Lynn Beatty, on earning the rank of Eagle Scout and taking the Eagle Scout oath. Matthew's Court of Honor was held July 25th at NKUMC with friends and family present. Matthew was presented a plaque by the School Committee Chair for his participation as liaison from the NK Student body to the school committee this past year. Matthew joins thousands of men who are Eagles for life. Congratulations Matt. Matthew will be attending Northeastern in the fall studying engineering.

BAPTISMAL CELEBRATIONS

On July 18th, we celebrated the baptism of Robert Benjamin Johnson, son of Benjamin and Rachael Johnson, grandson of Mike and Paula Wilberger and Mark and Janine Johnson. Robert was born on June 30, 2010.

On July 25th, we celebrated three baptisms: Haylee Crystal Peters, daughter of Scott and Susan Peters, granddaughter of Carolyn and the late Kirk MacGregor, who was born on April 20, 2010; Devyn Marie Cairns, daughter of James and Deja Cairns who was born on February 8, 2010 ; and Tanner Vernon Dunning, son of Don and Rachelle Dunning, who was born on September 23, 2009.



SAVE THE DATES!

September 11:	Yard Sale
October 2:	Harvest Fair
October 9:	UMM Fish Fry
October 22 – 24:	Women's Retreat

Our Community ~ Our Commitment

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

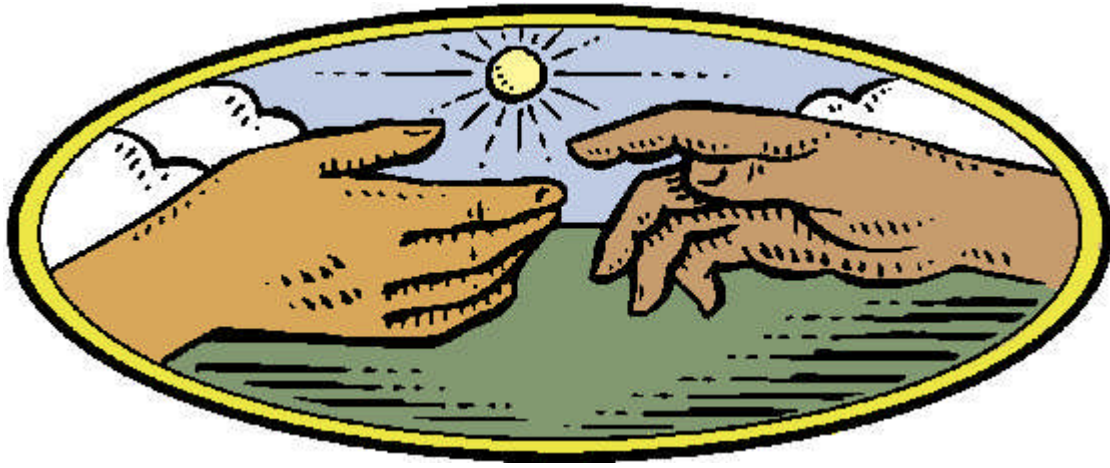
Domestic Violence Resource Center 61 Main Street, Wakefield 401-782-3995

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



In August we are beginning a series on the Council of Bishops' paper, "God's Renewed Creation," an update on Bishop Dale White's "In Defense of Creation"

August 1

Scripture: Psalm Romans 8: 22-25

Video: "God's Renewed Creation"

Sermon: "The Groaning of Creation"

August 8th

Scripture:

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

Sermon: Mark Zaccaria preaching

August 15

Scripture: Psalm 148, Isaiah 40: 26-31, Jeremiah 29: 4-11

Sermon: "A Future of Hope"

August 22

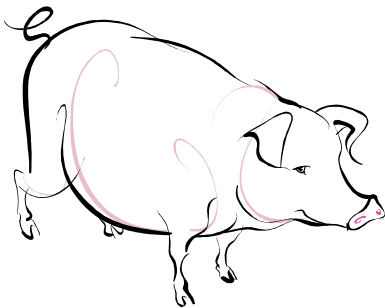
Scripture: Matthew 5: 14-16; Colossians 1: 20

Sermon: "Footprints"

August 29

Scripture: Micah 6: 8, Matthew 19: 23-26

Sermon: "On the Clock with God"



Summer Church for Children and Youth

"The Ballad of Bullheaded Billy"

A Musical based on the Prodigal Son

Children and youth are invited to come and participate in this summer program during worship. Bring your friends from the neighborhood. The musical will be presented in early September with an ice cream social. Debbie Snow will be working with the youth each week in Fellowship Hall after Children's Time. If you would like to help and join in the fun, please contact Debbie.

“Serve the Lord with gladness, come into his presence singing... enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise... and bless his name.” Psalm 100:2, 4

Well, it seems David didn’t have any doubts about how we should approach the Lord. Over the past six months you have been introduced to a number of “Praise and Worship” songs. Our hymnal is also supplemented with “The Faith We Sing” collection. These are relatively new songs (composed in the last forty-five years) which for the most part are compatible with Methodist theology. Other denominations have also added supplements to their traditional hymnals. Lutherans now use the “Praise and Worship” series, one of the earliest additions to the music genre. “Sing! A New Creation” is another popular resource, and Evangelicals are finding new materials from the Roman Catholic (John Polce, Marty Hogan, Dan Schutte) praise and worship repertoire.

Praise and worship has a couple of approaches worth mentioning. Greg Sheer in his book “The Art of Worship” has offered a physical “horizontal” comparison to singing with others (praising and speaking with others about God) and a worshipful “vertical” group effort (worshippers singing and speaking to God). Traditional hymns are often described as telling a story, as compared to praise and worship songs which deal with Godly ideas, inspirational situations, and often the repetition of a worshipful phrase. There is room on Sunday, or any time we pray, sing or worship, for both and all forms of musical experience.

Music plays a really important part in our worship. St. Francis is credited with having considered singing as “praying twice”. In any case the music which we share, the music which we sing, the music that is dance, the music that is heard, the music in which we actively participate is always directed at praising and worshipping our God. He/She takes on many names, characters, and roles, but whichever venue is imposed, the prayer that is represented still focuses on that purpose.

Our new music is coming from varied sources since the late 1950’s and 60’s. Its original purpose was to ‘spread the word’. It has since developed a strong unifying character in which worshipers are drawn together. Quoting C. Michael Hawn, Sheer affirms that *“Music from other cultural contexts has the potential to express Christian experience in new ways, causing us to reflect upon our worship with a new sense of awareness... The intentional cultivation of international hymnody in the life of a congregation over a period of time can help the participants become aware of God’s broader vision for the world through the eyes of Christians whose world view vastly differs from a traditional, white American perspective.”** Celtic, Taizé, African-American, Hebrew, Slavic, Chris Tomlin, Thomas Dorsey, Kirk Franklin, and many others sources are offering serious alternative songs of praise and worship which can be incorporated in a blended experience of prayer, worship, praise, hymns, and devotion.

Our approach to singing here at NKUMC will be expanded gradually, and, hopefully, your worship experience will be a more meaningful interactive role of participation, rather than a passive ‘watch and see what happens next’ position. If you are of a mind, please consider any hymnal, supplement, or praise and worship music that you would like to have included and leave a note with your suggestions in my mail box in the corridor. The worship team will try to include these suggestions within a reasonable time frame.

Thank you for your encouragement and support.

Paul M. Mancini

*© 2006 Greg Sheer, *The Art of Worship*, p81, Baker Publishing, POBox 6287, Grand Rapids MI 49516

C. Michael Hawn, “A Survey of Trends in Recent Protestant Hymnals: International Hymnody,” *The Hymn* 42, no. 4 (Oct 1991): 24.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sandy Brown
Anthea Weixel
- 2 Deb Snow
Jacob Evans
- 3 Cora Thomas
- 5 Brittany Kenyon
- 7 Ed Renehan
Christine Stevens
Andrew Marshall
Elise Bowe
- 10 Rene Hartman
Charlene Price
Stephanie Plotkin
- 12 Mark Snow
- 13 Parker Silva
- 14 Jeff Dallas
David Moon
Alex Powers
- 16 Dan Dwane
- 18 Elizabeth Plotkin
- 19 Seth Moyer
Nathan Evans
- 20 Safiatu Bah Dallas
- 22 Bethany Koziol
Andrew Mello
- 24 Brendan Brunelle
- 25 Kelly Stevens
- 27 Zoe Brooks
- 30 Larry Price
- 31 Diana Dwane
Helen Murphy

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 John & Carol Dearlove
- 9 Richard & Nina Dunne
- 11 Jeff & Lisa Dallas
Dave Beutel & Robin Marek
- 20 Danny & Joni Lynch
- 24 Gary & Cibby Gardiner
Ed & Christa Renehan
- 26 Al & Sherrie Blott
- 29 Paul & Julie DeMarco

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY

The August menu is now available
online at angelfood.net
Copies are in the Narthex.

The deadline for ordering by cash,
check, or EBT is August 15th. The
online deadline is August 22nd.

Pick-up is scheduled for August 28th
from 7:30 – 9:00 AM

10.10.10 It's coming!

Yard Sale

On the front lawn and in Fellowship Hall
September 11th from 9-2

Fall is right around the corner and
now is the time to clean out before sealing up the windows and doors for winter!

Bring your gently used items (no clothing please) to Fellowship Hall beginning Wednesday September 8th. We need people to help with set-up, sales, and clean-up. Please sign-up in the Narthex or speak with Cathy Morrison. This is a wonderful fellowship opportunity!

Harvest Fair

Plans for the Harvest Fair are underway! This important church fundraiser will be held Saturday, October 2nd, from 9 to 2. There are *many* ways everyone in our church family can help:

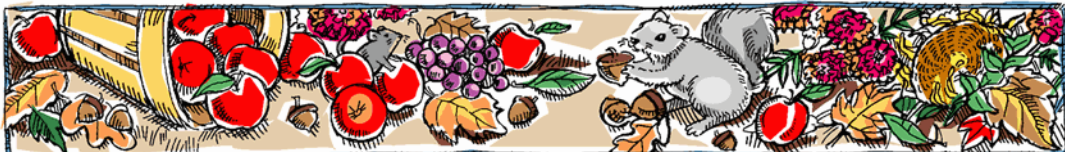
Please spread the word to crafters you might know who would like to exhibit. Anyone who would like a table for the craft fair should contact Vivian Flade at vaflade@cox.net, or call 884-2391.

We'll also have a church craft table, "re-gift" table, book sale, and silent auction. We welcome any crafts made by or donated by our church family and friends. Why not begin some crafts while you have time this summer? At our "re-gift table", we're looking for new items that might have been given or intended as gifts, but are now in need of a new home. Books in excellent condition are also welcome. (Please note that this is not a yard sale, so items that are not new should be saved for another time). For the more valuable donations, we will have a Silent Auction with minimum bids. Gift baskets are a great silent auction donation. Please consider what you might be able to make or donate that would be appropriate for one of these areas.

Think about how you might be able to help the day of the fair. We'll need volunteers to help set up, take down, serve food, and help staff the church tables and bake sale. We are also looking for someone interested in running a children's activity area.

Finally, we'd like to sell frozen pies for people to take home and bake. We need a baker willing to coordinate a pie-making night in September for fun, fellowship, and future funds. If you like to make pies and think you can help, let us know!

If you have other great ideas for the Harvest Fair or can volunteer to help, please talk with any member of the committee: Christine Stevens cstevens92@cox.net (Chairperson), Vivian Flade and Diana Dwane (Crafters/Vendors), Warren Halstead (Food), Charlene Price (Silent Auction), Mimi Pierce (Publicity). There is also a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



FROM WHERE I SIT by Rev. F. Richard Garland

PROPHET OF HOPE

He is the unlikeliest of heroes: born under a sentence of death and raised in the household of those who wanted him dead; an alien who became a leader and was then exiled as a murderer; a stutterer who spoke for God; a messenger of covenant to people who refuse to submit; a guide through waters and desert to a promised land that he never entered - Moses!



The implication of the title of Bruce Feiler's most recent book is so obvious that I am astounded that it never once occurred to me: "America's Prophet: Moses and the American Story." Of course! Why didn't I see that? The Pilgrims and their quest for religious freedom, George Washington and the American Revolution, Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, The Statue of Liberty and the immigrant populations, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement - all have been, at one time or another, seen through lens of the struggle of the oppressed against oppression - Moses!

One may argue whether the connection between a Biblical story and a particular nation is appropriate, but Feiler's narrative is compelling. He writes: "The themes of Moses' life - social mobility, reluctance to lead, standing up to authority, forming a persecuted people into a nation of laws, dreaming of a promised land, coping with the disappointment of falling short - would be at home on any short list of America's defining traits." Feiler points out that the keys to understanding Moses' gift and legacy is that, "...there is something better than the mundane, the enslaved, the second best, the compromised," that instead of indulging his own freedom and using it to his advantage, he instead "...extolled virtues - justice, fortitude, temperance, and the universality of law," and that "...the Moses story is infused with compassion," "...building up a society that welcomes the outsider and uplifts the downtrodden." Feiler insists that the genius of Moses is that he created a community that remembered its story that saw it as a narrative of hope, and worked to assure that the wisdom of the story would guide the people to "the promised land."

Years ago, as a teenager away from home for the first time, I stood awestruck at The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. It was a shaping experience as I began to see the intersection of a beloved Biblical story with actual life. In the shadow of Ellis Island where so many had arrived at a new land, full of possibility and hope, I read for the first time Emma Lazarus' poem, "The New Colossus."

"Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
with conquering limbs astride from land to land;
here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
a mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
the air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
'Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!' cries she
with silent lips. 'Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Somehow, in the relative comfort and privilege of my rural home, I had not learned that there were others who were not as comfortable and privileged as I. As I read, I began to understand that the iconic statue above me was a symbol of welcome for those who were not like me. It made me very proud. Eventually I would come to realize that my faith calls me to welcome the stranger, care for the homeless, give hope to the dreamer, offer a place full of possibility to those who seek a better life, and more. It is Biblical, and it is the right thing to do!

Every people have a story that, for better or for worse, is a shaping metaphor that defines who they are. If Feiler is right and the story of Moses has served as a reminder of our shared values, then it is appropriate, perhaps even essential to survival that we turn again to this prophet of hope to find wisdom and direction for the way ahead.

At the core of scripture there is compassion for the poor and the oppressed and a passion for mercy and justice - there are no exceptions. The way of the Lord is to seek freedom from oppression, to call people to accept sacrifice, to enter into covenant for the common good, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God: so that the possibilities of hope might be accomplished and available to all. It means to lift the light of hope to all who enter the land and resolve not to give in to the temptation to turn back or suppress those who are drawn to that light with dreams of a better life.

We might not be there yet [probably aren't], and sometimes we might forget the sacred obligations involved [probably have], but rediscovering this prophet of hope is a foundation of good theology and the cornerstone of a just and healthy society.



You have come to NKUMC and stayed! Now is the time to consider the next step and joining in membership with us. Inquirer's Classes will be held Tuesday August 24th, 25th, and 31st at 7pm. Please let Pastor Lori know of your interest so materials may be properly planned. Anyone wanting a refresher in the UMC is also invited to attend.

Celebrating Family Summer Cookout

Wednesday, August 11

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Rain or Shine

At

United Methodist Elder Care Communities in East Providence

Entertainment and Cookout for just \$5 a meal

Registration Forms are in the Narthex

They must be completed and returned by August 6th

Financial Update

Did you know that after Charge Conference last year we set our budget expenses at \$225,77.56 for the year? That means we need to give approximately \$4,341.78 per week. For the last three weeks of July we needed \$13,025.34, but our offering totaled \$8,935.21 for the same period. Thank you to everyone who is able to keep up with their pledge.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS

Our women's group has been active over the past two years. We have some exciting opportunities coming up and would like you to participate, even if you have not been a regular at the Saturday morning meetings.

First, some of our past and ongoing programs, missions, ministries, and activities include:

- Pastor Lori presented, "Bad Women of the Bible";
- Anne Burke of North Kingstown presented Date Violence/Domestic Violence. Anne's daughter was murdered four years ago by her boyfriend. She and her husband are active in getting legislation passed in RI and other states that mandates schools teach dating and domestic violence through the health curriculum.;
- We watched the movie, "Mother Afghanistan.";
- We sponsored a SPA Day and several Game Nights at the church.;
- We financially support the Youth Group Mission Trip to Maine.;
- We have played a distant role in helping to bring two healthy babies into this world through our assembling of birthing kits for Sierra Leone. If you are not familiar with birthing kits, google it and see what others around the U.S. are doing to ensure healthy deliveries miles from us.

New ministries have "spun-off" from our Saturday meetings:

- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Gators and helmet liners for the soldiers in Afghanistan
- Quilts for returning wounded from the battlefield
- The Narthex Borrow a Book for a Dollar, which supports Dollars for Scholars
- Tuesday afternoon Book Studies

We are in the planning stages for the **United Methodist Women's District Conference** and the first annual **All Women's Retreat**. September 25th is the UMW District Conference, and we have accepted the invitation to host this meeting at our church. We will need women to provide baked goods, organize the coffee table during registration, set up Fellowship Hall for lunch, sign-up as servers, and plan a worship service.



The weekend of October 22 – 24 will be our first all women's retreat at Camp Aldersgate.

Consider this a "get-away" weekend, a restful weekend with friends: a time to think, eat, learn, energize before the holiday crazies hit, and have a great time.

Registration forms will be available the beginning of August. There is limited space so mark your calendars for the October 22 – 24. We are looking forward to your interest and participation to make these programs successful!

The next United Methodist Women's monthly meeting is Saturday, August 21st from 9:30 – 11:00. Bring a breakfast food to share. Coffee and tea is provided. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and a muffin with friends and stay to see how you can use your talents to enrich the lives of others.

***North Kingstown United Methodist Church
450 Boston Neck Road
North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852***

Return Service Requested