



# FISHERMEN'S NEWS

The Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian  
805 Main Avenue; Warwick, Rhode Island  
www.gccp.org

APRIL 2009



**“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.”**

*John 3:14-15*

Dear Members and Friends,

The lectionary readings for the fourth Sunday in Lent drew our attention to an event near the end of the Israelites' forty years of wilderness wandering, found in Numbers 21:4-9. Jesus refers to this event in John 3:14-15, which comes immediately prior to John 3:16, arguably the most familiar verse in the New Testament (*if not the entire Bible!*). In the sermon I highlighted how God transformed symbols of death into symbols of life and salvation in both Old and New Testaments. The serpent was a symbol of death transformed into a symbol of grace, salvation and life; the Cross was also a symbol of death transformed into a symbol of grace, salvation and life. The image crafted by Moses was in the shape of a serpent, but did not have the sting of the serpent. It did not have the sting of death; in fact, it took away the serpent's sting of death. So it is with the cross of Jesus Christ: *“O Death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”* Those who lifted their faces to look to the image of the serpent were healed by grace from above ... they did not perish, and they eventually went on to enter the Promised Land. And those who lift their faces to the cross of Jesus Christ shall also receive grace from above; as Jesus goes on to say (v. 16), *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”* All who look to Jesus will live, as well ... and one day they, too, shall go on to enter the Promised Land of God.

In preaching from Numbers 21 in 2005, I used this little devotional I discovered ten or so years ago:

Moses and the people were in the desert, but what was he going to do with them? They had to get across the Red Sea, and in one night at that. Now, if a population of three million went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be some 800 miles long and would require about a month to get through. So, there had to be a space in the Red Sea three miles wide so that they could walk approximately five thousand abreast to get over in one night. But then, there are other problems, even though the Red Sea and the Egyptian threat were now behind them. Each time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island was required, or an average total of some 750 square miles ... think of it! This space just for nightly camping. They had to be fed, and feeding three million people requires a lot of food. Using the United States Army Quartermaster General's basic military issue standards, Moses would have to have had 1500 tons of food each day. Do you know that to bring that much food each day, two freight trains, each almost a mile long, would be required? Remember, they were forty years in transit. And they would have to have water. Standard military issue for that number of people would be 11,000,000 gallons *each day*, needing at least two more mile-long freight trains equipped with tank cars for transport!

Do you think Moses had this all figured out before he left Egypt? I think not! You see, Moses believed in God. God took care of these things for him. Now ... do you think God has any problem taking care of all your needs?

Stephen L. Clark, Pastor

## Southeastern New England Chapter Second Annual Children's Choir Festival Tewksbury Congregational Church March 21, 2009

Our Joyful Song youth choir was among the 120 or so present for this day long festival, and the closing concert/worship service was a *most* inspirational and delightful experience for me and for all who were in attendance. Thank you to Kathy Hart and all parents who helped, AND to all who made the 90 mile trek to Tewksbury; Greenwood was very well represented in the congregation!



## NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



**Palm Sunday Procession with Isaac the Donkey, Sunday April 5th:** Sunday School classes will meet outside the side door at 10:15 am to get their palms and visit Isaac. Then we will have our procession to the front of the church where everyone (ok, not Isaac) will go in for a special time with the Pastor! The children will be singing with the Pastor, so everyone is invited to come early (or stay later) to join in before the 10:45 am service!

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, April 11, 2009; for the details on this event check the box below.

### **Easter Sunday, April 12: No Sunday School**

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the Sunday School Lenten Mission Project to benefit Heifer International. Once the monies have been tallied, the Sunday School will determine what they would like to purchase. We will share this information with the congregation once the order has been made.

**Looking Further Ahead to Children and Youth Sunday, May 17:** This year the youth of the church will have prepared a special time during the coffee hour (between 10:00 am and 10:45 am). The children are planning a MARKETPLACE set back in the time of Jesus. Everyone is welcome and all children are invited to take part in this special presentation. Youth Sunday will continue in the 10:45 am service and all are invited to attend!

## WHATS GOING ON IN ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dave Williams is running a series by John Ortberg entitled, "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat." Discover your "gifts," step out of your comfort zone, and start using those gifts. Have an idea for a future topic? Please share it with us. We also encourage you to bring a friend. What a great way to demonstrate and share your faith in Jesus Christ.

## WEB SITE

Check out the new web site at [www.gccp.org](http://www.gccp.org). Register as a new user and you're off! Our calendar is now online and up to date. If you have an event you would like listed or if you would like your existing listing jazzed up, let us know or ask Sue Desmond for help. Sermons and the *Fishermen's News* can now be found on the website. Feel free to make suggestions on how the website would be more useful to you.

## PYF NEWS

Check out the new Youth Group (PYF) page on [www.gccp.org](http://www.gccp.org). It continues to be a work in progress, so feel free to make suggestions. PYF youth along with the Sr. High Sunday School class have adopted a young boy from Haiti. Jean Wilkens Clerveau is 7 years old and he helps out at home by carrying water and cleaning. He enjoys playing soccer and group games with his friends. You can see a photo of Jean in Fellowship Hall and read more about him and the area in Haiti where he lives. If you would like to make a donation to benefit Jean, ask someone from PYF. We have a full schedule of events coming up including a retreat at Camp Aldersgate on April 24-26.

## 18+ YOUNG ADULT EDUCATION

Matt Barber is teaching a class of people 18+ every Sunday in the PYF room beginning 15 minutes after the second service ends. Plan on going out into the world through some outreach projects. We will be studying the Bible based upon the input from the class. Topics will include concerns that students have, where they are in their lives, or analyzing questions they have from readings. It will be a fun time in God's word, prayer, and ministry. Matt looks forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings. God Bless.



Stephen Nazareth, Seth Paradise, Lisa David, Wendy Petrucci

## **CALLING ALL KIDS!!!**



## **Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

on **Saturday, April 11, at 2:00 p.m. sharp!** Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets. This event is for children up to 4th grade. We will meet in Fellowship Hall. Remember, this event goes very quickly once the kids get started, so don't be late! Teens who would like to help stuff and hide eggs should come to church at 1:00 p.m.

## HART BEAT



What would worship be like without music? For most of us, something vital would be missing. Worship would feel incomplete. Why is that? Because we need multiple ways to offer up prayers, to show our joy at the gifts God has bestowed on us, and to listen to God's word. Every Sunday the choir offers a message based on scripture and Christian doctrine, and the congregation sings hymns that illuminate and illustrate the sermon. The universal language of music speaks to everyone and expresses our inmost feelings.

On March 21, children from the Joyful Song Choir attended an all-day Choristers Guild festival in Tewksbury, MA, where we sang, played bells and worshipped with almost 100 kids! It was a joyous time of celebration and learning.

On Palm Sunday, Joyful Song will sing a festive introit. On Easter, the children will augment the hymns with chimes and bells. Of course, the Chancel Choir will also provide anthems for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. Holy Week will be a glorious week abounding with the universal language of music!



## MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee has a new name! We are now the Member Care Committee, reflecting the Committee's charge to oversee the "care" of all the members of the extended Greenwood Church family. Our work will be distributed in three overlapping areas: evangelism – reaching out to welcome new members to Greenwood Church; member support—maintaining communication with Greenwood families through an expanded program of calls and visits; and activities – organizing events to unite us in good Christian Fellowship. We are eager for volunteers to support us in this work, either as official members of the Member Care Committee or helpers for specific activities like visiting members in their homes or planning social events. We also need your ideas for ways in which we can continue the long tradition of Greenwood Church being a loving, extended family where the members truly care for one another. Please bring your ideas to any member of the Committee.

You can begin your outreach today. Do you know anyone who has been visiting Greenwood Church who would like to learn more about our church or is considering membership? Invite them to attend the spring Inquirer's Classes that will begin right after Easter.

**Session 1: Sunday, April 19, 9:00 a.m.** during the Sunday School Hour. Learn a little about the history of Greenwood Church and the fellowship opportunities and outreach of the Committees and organizations within the Church.

**Session 2: Sunday, April 26, 10:00 a.m.** during Coffee Hour. The Pastor will lead a discussion of church membership and what it means to be a Presbyterian.

**Session 3: Sunday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.** during Coffee Hour. Following a welcome by current Deacons and Elders, the Session will vote to receive our new members, who will then be formally received into membership at the 10:45 service.



Elaine Magyar, Chair  
Member Care Committee

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE



The committee is currently working on acquiring bids for our next few church projects. We are looking at some steeple and roofing repairs in the very near future to insure our physical structure is as sound as our Christian structure is at GCCP!

We are looking into the future at the **All Church Work Day on May 9**. If you have an item that requires some attention, please let me know with a short note or an email and I will add it to the list. Please remember that to get this work accomplished, the Building and Grounds Committee always needs helpers on Work Day! Please remember that "experience can be over-rated, but enthusiasm and attendance counts many times more!"



In His Name, Glenn I. Fairbairn  
B & G Committee Chair

## 39ER's APRIL GATHERING

Top of the Bay Restaurant  
in Oakland Beach  
Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>-11:30 AM

### Menu

Choice of Leg of Lamb or Chicken Marsala  
Soup, Coffee or Tea and Dessert

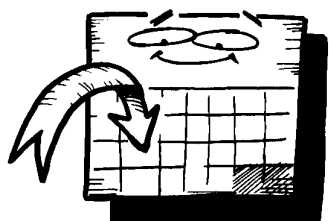
**Cost per person: \$12.00**

### Program in Fellowship Hall at 2:00 P.M.

"Tales of Bali," by Kitty Channel

**As a token of our great appreciation for Kitty's program, your contribution of a paper product for the Tanner House would be appreciated.**

If you need a ride or a reservation, please call Linda Gungle @828-7687.



*Mark This Date!*

**ALL MEN ARE INVITED TO A**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, May 16**

Watch for more information in the May *Fishermen's News* and weekly bulletins. See Jay David with questions.

### **"CLERK'S NOTES" From the February Session Meeting:**

At the Session meeting in February, the following officers were elected for 2009:

Clerk of Session: Elaine Magyar

President of the Corporation and Chair of the Stewardship Committee: M. Barry Baxter

Treasurer: David Dickerman

Financial Secretary: Susan Desmond

Stephen Nazareth and Betty Stacey were elected to represent the Session on the 2009 Nominating Committee.

Elder assignments to other committees were approved as listed below:

Christian Education: Stephen Nazareth and Seth Paradise

Member Care: Elaine Magyar and Peter McKnight

Mission: Brian Flannery and Wilma Swanson

Building and Grounds: Glenn Fairbairn and Donald Sorgel

Worship: Betty Stacey and Matthew Barber

Stewardship: Barry Baxter and David Williams

Personnel: Betty Stacey (chair), Glenn Fairbairn, Wilma Swanson, Stephen Nazareth and Brian Flannery

Elaine Magyar  
Clerk



## NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



On March 17 eight women from Greenwood attended the March gathering of PW at Woodbury Union, our sister Presbyterian Church in Warwick. Following a delicious soup, salad and dessert supper we were entertained by Margo Bik, 'The Hat Lady'. Margo has an extensive collection of beautiful hats and a story to tell about how she acquired each of them. A delightful lady and a wonderful evening!

On April 4 we will have another opportunity to meet with women from the Presbytery of Southern New England when we attend the spring gathering of PWPSNE at the United Presbyterian Church in Milford, CT. We will hear from Jenny Lee, Moderator of National Korean Presbyterian Women, who attended the 2008 Global Exchange to Eastern Europe. Women from Eastern Europe will be in the US for our triennium gathering to be held this coming July in Louisville, KY.

On April 7 we will hold our own Spring Gathering luncheon and program in Fellowship Hall. Following lunch, Bob McManus, an instructor from the RI School of Tai Chi, will teach us simple Tai Chi moves.

This past month we received a Certificate of Appreciation from Women & Infants Hospital for the knitted and crocheted items we donate on a regular basis to the hospital and a Blankets+ Honor Certificate from Church World Service for our continued participation in Blanket Sunday each year

We also received a newsletter from the Plateau Home School in Lansing, TN. This is where we have been sending the Campbell UPC symbols for many years. This school has served Morgan County since 1975, and because of a former member of Greenwood (who became a Presbyterian pastor), Bob Butziger, we have been sending our labels to them. They provide after-school tutoring, a Books on Wheels Program, a Library Learning Center, and a Toys for a Peaceful World Program that provides knit hats, gloves, a large toy and a small toy for children who are in the low income range.

Our Annual May Breakfast is being held on Saturday, May 2. There will be a sign-up chart in Fellowship Hall for members of the congregation (including men and youth) who are not in Circles who would like to help us with this event. Although this is sponsored by PW, we do need support from the congregation to make this event a success. If you can't help – COME AND ENJOY!

Kay Peterson gave me a Lenten Booklet and I would like to share the reading for Wednesday of Holy Week with all of you:

### *The Perfect Example*

*If we didn't have a cross on hand as an instant sign of our faith, a towel would be a good second choice. For none of the teachings of Jesus about the greatness of service – not even his words that "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life" – are as clear as what he did in the upper room (John 13:1-17).*

*The disciples arrived, their sandal-clad feet dusty. The customary basin of water and towel were available. I can picture each pretending not to notice – looking up at the ceiling, fumbling with a robe. So Jesus picks up the basin and towel and washes their feet. "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example."*

*Here, instead of "Pick up your cross and follow," Jesus calls, "Pick up your towel." Not many of us are asked to die for Christ, but all of us are asked to live for him. Which is harder, to die for the Lord or live for him? The cross may be the ultimate demand for a few of us, but the towel of service is the Lord's immediate demand on all of us.*

*Help, me, Lord, pick up my TOWEL and follow you.*

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A blessed Easter to all –

Betty Stacey  
for Presbyterian Women

## CIRCLE NEWS for APRIL

Circles continue to meet and all are now getting ready for the May Breakfast. Sign-up sheets are available at Circle meetings and in Fellowship Hall. Helpers are always needed! Check to see where you will fit in best! Read on for Circle details this month:

Circle I – will meet Tuesday, April 28, at 1:00 PM in the church parlor for lesson eight of "Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor". All are welcome.

Circle III - will meet Tuesday, April 14, at 7:00 PM at Joan-Sandra McKnight's home for a hymn-sing with Nancy Merritt.

Circle IV - will meet on Tuesday, April 14, at 7:00 PM in the church parlor for a program titled, "Sharing Life Experiences".

Circle V – will meet Tuesday, April 1, at 9 AM in the church kitchen to bake the dessert and set the tables for their lunch with the MS group.

Circle VII – will meet on Tuesday, April 14, at 6:00 PM at Lynda Baker's home to work on May Baskets.

*Happy Spring!*

Karen Baxter  
Circle Coordinator

~ CAUGHT IN THE NET ~

**Hospitalized since the last issue:**

Karen Baxter      Barbara Johnson  
Frank Hurd        Jeanne Williams

**Best Wishes** to Dr. and Mrs. David Burge who were married at Greenwood in a quiet ceremony on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We wish David and Evon God's richest blessing.

□ □ □ □ □ ~~~NOTES RECEIVED ~~~□ □ □ □ □

*Sincere thanks to all who sent cards or called. I am feeling better and looking forward to being back at church service in the very near future. How I hated to miss The Best Bazaar ever and the other holiday events! Our church is so beautiful at Christmas.*

*Special thanks to Evelyn Rae (she called almost daily and kept me up to date on church news), to Angie D. for her visit, to Martha Beard who brought chancel flowers and stayed two hours), to Alan Jones for his patient computer help and some wonderful CD's and musical gifts.*

*I'm blessed to be part of such a loving church family.*

*Sincerely, Mabel Fuller*

*(editor's note: Mabel sent this note last month, but somehow it became lost in cyberspace. We apologize, Mabel.)*

*Dear Greenwood Friends,*

*Thanks so much for your expressions through the reception for me on Sunday, March 8. Each of you will be remembered for your love and support as I served you and our Lord as Clerk and recently Chair of the Mission Committee.*

*Thank you for the cash gift, but let me especially thank you for your mission mindedness as we worked together to help God's children.*

*As I return to West Virginia, I take with me those memories from my second home and family of Greenwood. You have been the family for me here in Rhode Island and that family tie will never be broken.*

*Love in Christ, Henry Ruppenthal*

*Dear Greenwood Church Family,*

*Severin and I would like to thank you all very much for sending the beautiful flower arrangement to us following the birth of our son, Andrew, at the beginning of February. The flowers were lovely and made a very nice addition to the baby's nursery. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and the three of us look forward to seeing you soon. Thanks again!*

*Sincerely, Lisa, Severin, & Andrew Bergeron*

*Dear Friends at Greenwood,*

*Thank you so much for the many cards of caring and concern expressed for Al. He has survived another life threatening event and returned home a week ago. We remain grateful to Greenwood Church.*

*In Christian love, Jerianne & Al Berman*

*Many, many THANK YOU'S for all the get well and birthday cards. A special thanks to Angie D'Albora and Circle V and friends for the celebration at her home. Thank you to our thoughtful, caring congregation for the birthday shindig in Fellowship Hall and to Joan-Sandra and Peter McKnight for their 23 ¼ treat at the Olive Garden.*

*Mike-ee Koczan*

*Dear Members of Greenwood Church,*

*My sincere thank to Peggy Phillips for bringing me the Valentine chocolates, the red teddy bear, and the heart-shaped notepad. Also thank you to Pastor Steve and his children for bringing me the white and pink altar flowers and the church bulletin.*

*Unfortunately, I was not in my room for these kind visits, but I sincerely appreciate the thoughtfulness shown.*

*I am thankful for being a member of such a kind, caring church.*

*In Christian love, Gladys Bracker*

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- James Aguire
- Monika Algozino
- C. J. Bataitis
- Dot Blackwell
- Carolyn Caron
- Zack Casinelli
- Stephen Clark (son)
- Nancy Collins
- Dan Curry
- George Davis
- Pam Daylor
- Evelyn DesRoches
- Mark Donilon
- Charles Hackett
- Flossie Harrison
- Chris Hurd
- Frank Hurd
- Margaret Hurtubise
- Jessica Iannuccilli
- Esther Jackson
- Jennifer Klyberg
- Paul Magyar
- Sowmini Mathews
- Julia McKeever
- Megan Miller
- Evelyn Murray
- Alex Paradise
- Michaela Parkinson
- Patti Parkinson
- Alex Petrucci
- Evelyn Rae
- Charles Ricker
- Lindsay Rudolph
- Betty Stacey
- Debra Stacey
- Sue Stock
- Anya Swanson
- Helen Tannehill
- Nancy Taylor
- Jeanne Williams



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