



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2010



STEEPLE DEDICATION JANUARY 24, 2010

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who helped make this celebration possible: to the Member Care Committee (*Elaine Magyar, chair*) for coordinating a delicious potluck meal; to the Flower Girls on Post Road for donating the beautiful bows and fifty yards of ribbon (*as well as to sexton John Pickup for literally going above and beyond the call of duty to secure the bows!*); to our special guests (*and master copper craftsman*) Jim Aldrich, his wife Maria and son Caleb, as well as Jim's apprentice, whose painstaking craftsmanship, thorough attention to detail, and characteristic thoroughness have worked wonders; to Buildings and Grounds committee members past and present (*Glenn Fairbairn, chair*) who've labored years to see this come to fruition; to all who so generously donated to our ongoing Capital Campaign; to all who were present to join in prayer and celebration, and to Treasurer David Dickerman, Trustees President Barry Baxter and members of the Stewardship Committee and Session for all the behind the scenes hours of strategizing, financial planning and paperwork necessitated to ensure timely payments in projects of this scope.

EXCERPTS FROM THE LITANY OF STEEPLE DEDICATION

As the steeple directs attention heaven-ward, it also serves as a unique witness to the community that this particular building is set apart for a purpose of the highest value. May this restored steeple proclaim to the community that we worship the God Most High, the Lord of Hosts, and that under this tower is proclaimed a message of high hope, heavenly aspiration, and grace which comes from above for all who will receive it.

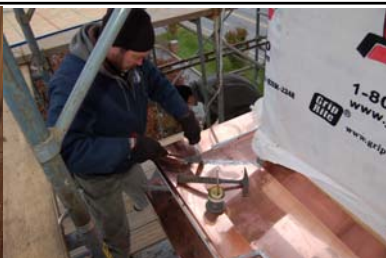
LIFT HIGH THE CROSS, THE LOVE OF CHRIST PROCLAIM,
TILL ALL THE WORLD ADORE HIS SACRED NAME.

A reading from the Gospel of John: "I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen. No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven -- the Son of Man. 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."

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS, THE LOVE OF CHRIST PROCLAIM,
TILL ALL THE WORLD ADORE HIS SACRED NAME.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." Let us pray:

WE DEDICATE THIS STEEPLE, O LORD, TO YOUR HONOR AND GLORY. MAY IT CONTINUE TO HOLD THE CROSS AT HIGHEST ELEVATION FOR DECADES TO COME. UNDER THIS TOWER, O LORD, MAY THE FAITHFUL FIND SALVATION, AND THE CARELESS BE AWAKENED. MAY THE DOUBTING FIND FAITH, AND THE ANXIOUS BE ENCOURAGED. MAY THE TEMPTED FIND HELP, AND THE SORROWFUL COMFORT. MAY THE WEARY FIND REST, AND THE STRONG BE RENEWED. HERE MAY THE AGED FIND CONSOLATION, AND THE YOUNG INSPIRATION. AND MAY ALL WHO LOOK TO THIS CROSS DISCOVER IN FULLEST MEASURE THE HOPE IT PROCLAIMS, IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.



MISSION COMMITTEE



Prison Fellowship's *Angel Tree* program is a major national effort to reconnect children with their absent parent, assuring each child that she or he is still loved. For over ten years our committee has been struck by the cheerful, enthusiastic response of our congregation. We applaud your loving participation in this outreach.

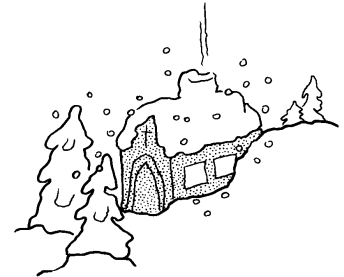
Special appreciation goes to Deb Stacey, Harry Curran, Emmy Kmet, Wilma Swanson and to our wonderful Santa Family, the Blasdells. Many thanks also to the volunteers who delivered gifts to the families who were unable to attend our Christmas Party and to all who purchased and wrapped the gifts. Thank you all for your loving participation.



Myrle Dean, Mission Committee Chair

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The winter is fully on us hardy New Englanders and as usual we need to be careful when the weather dumps this beautiful snow on us and it turns to ice on our walks and parking areas. As we try to keep up on the winter white stuff, the B & G Committee wishes all the Greenwood Members to exercise caution anytime it looks like the 'weather guessers' miss the mark and we find ourselves once again sharing the church grounds with the snow and ice.



In His Name,

Glenn Fairbairn
B&G Committee Chair

ROPES MINISTRY UPDATE



For many years now, there has been an announcement nearly every week in the Sunday Church Service Bulletin about the ROPES ministry at Greenwood Church. This weekly announcement reminds all of us to bring in non-perishable food donations to help replenish the supplies at the West Bay Marketplace in Warwick. West Bay Marketplace then distributes these food supplies to needy families and individuals. This year has been an especially difficult one, made more so by the financial crisis and the declining state of our economy.

Despite the trying times, however, folks at Greenwood Church have still stepped up and have continued to give very generously. Your donations are helping to make a difference! Just during November and December of 2009, the members at Greenwood Church donated over five hundred pounds of food! Thank you so much! You all are really helping to make a difference right here in our community!

Thank you to all who have continued to "step up to the plate" with their generous donations. If you would like to participate in this ongoing ministry, please leave any non-perishable food donations in the narthex.

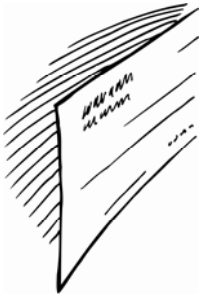
Thank you also to all those who have helped deliver the food donations over the years, including Mike Koczan and Martha Beard. Keep up the great work, Greenwood!



Jonathan M. Farnsworth

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.” (2 Corinthians 8:9-12)



To date we have received 128 pledge cards in support of our operating budget. The total is \$230,387, a 3% increase in giving for those who have pledged.

To date we have also received 54 pledge cards in support of our Capital Campaign. The total is over \$39,000.

Please return your pledge cards. If you are not in a position to commit to a pledge, return your card indicating that you will give to God's kingdom as you are able.

If you need a pledge card, you can pick one up in the Narthex or the church office.

The Stewardship Committee invites you to consider a new way of giving. Electronic giving provides benefits to both our members and the church. For those who choose to participate, withdrawing the pledged or specified amount from your bank account is truly giving the Biblical "first fruits." It also eliminates the minor frustrations of writing frequent checks or forgetting the checkbook. There will be no cost for this service and you will continue to be issued a giving statement from the church for your tax records. For the church, the advantages are related to a consistent and predictable cash flow and less paperwork. The seasonal fluctuations in giving patterns are lessened with automated giving.

Authorization forms are available in the church office or the narthex. Please fill out the form including a voided check and drop it off in the office. You can cancel your authorization of transfer at any time by notifying us in writing.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this new giving opportunity.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Barry Baxter
Stewardship Committee Chair

39-ERS

February Gathering

Wednesday, February 17
11:30 A.M.

Top of the Bay in Oakland Beach
Cost is \$12.00

Menu

Choice of Ham or Baked Scrod with Soup, Coffee or Tea, and Dessert

Program in Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m.
We will be entertained by John Scotti.

If you need a ride or a reservation, please call Linda Gungle

MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

Dave and Nancy Dickerman have been continuing the enormous task of summarizing the feedback from our visits with many of you last summer. We learned that while some members grew up in this church, many others were led to Greenwood by a family member, neighbor or friend. Why did we join Greenwood Church? The Sunday School, friendliness of the members, the worship services and sermons, and location were the major reasons given, in that order. Listed below are the responses to the question, "What do you think the church does particularly well?" I don't know about you, but as I read the list, my first response was, "Of course, why didn't I think of that?"



1. Sunday School was again at the top of the list with 24 responses.
2. Second was PYF (17)
3. A tie! Presbyterian Women and friendliness, fellowship, and family warmth. (14 each)
4. All aspects are good. (12)
5. Another tie! Worship services and the caring way in which our members look after each other. (10 each)
6. Tie! Sound theological sermons and Circles (9 each)
7. Deacon's work (8)
8. Good choir music (7)
9. Tie! 39ers and support of missionaries (5)
10. There for me at times of spiritual need (3)
11. Coffee Hour (2)
12. Tie! Good church activities, helping us to know Jesus better, unusually fine church, pastoral care for sick and hospitalized, strong volunteers—hold church together, pastor a great person, good music director, Fishermen's News, home visits by members, bazaars/May Breakfast (1 each)

By the time I got to the bottom of the list I was thinking, "You know, Greenwood is a very special church, and we sometimes forget all the things we do well." We all need to reach out as others did for many of us, and invite our friends, relatives, or neighbors to join us in these many wonderful opportunities for fellowship and worship. Maybe we don't even need to reach out to new people, but simply invite members of our Greenwood family to "come home."

Many of you have probably seen the "come home" ads sponsored by the Diocese of Providence. They show people who have realized that something has been missing in their lives since they have drifted away from church for various reasons. As our world becomes increasingly secular, and in some parts, even atheistic, it is more necessary than ever for Christians to gather together for worship and fellowship to give one another support as we go about our daily lives. It is easy to get out of the habit of going to church on Sunday morning and much harder to come back, but for many people, once that first step is taken the rewards are great as the Holy Spirit does His work. So, if you have been away, we invite you to renew your faith and join us in the joyful worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Despite all we do well, there is much we could do even better. The surveys only turned up a few suggestions here, but they were all excellent. In the coming months we will explore ways in which we can address these needs:

1. Providing meals for families in need.
2. More home visits by Pastor, elders, or other church members
3. Getting in touch with members who stop coming to church, as soon as possible, to show concern

Elaine Magyar, Chair

(Committee members: Peter McKnight, Joan-Sandra McKnight, David Dickerman, Melinda DelCioppio, Cheryl Bullock, Lynn Kramer, Lois-Belle Crankshaw, and Nancy Dickerman.)

Have a Heart . . .

Valentines of every size and description adorn store windows and other places of business this time of year. The holiday has become a time for love to be enthroned as a virtue, with the heart symbolizing the romance of our lives.

But the heart symbolizes not only love, but life itself! Without a heart, our bodies cannot survive.

Consider God's words to Samuel: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7, NRSV).

The heart – that inner countenance – shows what we really are. Samuel was to seek one of the sons of Jesse to be the new king. David, even though he was the weakest physical specimen, was the one selected. His heart was great.

Love looks deeper than outward appearances, and we can thank God for that. Don't be swayed by mere valentines – **have a heart!**



NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Thank you to everyone who helped on our Mini Bazaar and Christmas Dinner and Program. The Mini Bazaar was very successful and the delicious dinner and program were enjoyed by all the women who attended. We always appreciate the help of the men who prepare and serve the dinner. Thank you all for your time and efforts.

The Presbyterian Women of Southern New England Winter Retreat was held on January 29-30 at the Immaculate Conception Convent and Retreat Center in Putnam CT. Six of our members attended. We will have more information from them next month.

During February and March we will again participate in the "Gifts of the Heart" kit program, a program generously supported by the entire Greenwood Community Church family. Please see the details at the bottom of this page.

Our next Greenwood Presbyterian Women's Gathering will be a Brunch and Program on April 6th at 11 AM. Mark your calendar and next month we will have the details on this event. We hope that you will plan to attend. Even though Circles started up in the fall, we invite new members to visit a Circle at any meeting during the year. We always welcome new members.

Remember: "Come as a Guest, Leave as a Friend"
Betty Mason for Presbyterian Women

'ROUND IN CIRCLES FOR FEBRUARY

Circle I will meet at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, in the church parlor to continue their study of Joshua.

Circle III will meet at 7 p.m. **sharp** on Tuesday, February 9, in the PYF room for refreshments and Circle business. At 8 p.m. we will view the film, "The Glory of Christmas".

Circle IV will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, in the church parlor for their annual Penny Social.

Circle V will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 3, for Circle business and then they will help the MS Key Club with their monthly luncheon.

Circle VII will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, at the home of Lynda Baker to begin making items for our Annual Bazaar next December!

Copies of the current month's Circle Notes are available on the table in the Narthex.

Betty Stacey
Circle Coordinator

"GIFTS OF THE HEART" KIT PROGRAM

Presbyterian Women are collecting items to assemble School Kits and Health Kits for Church World Service's "Gift of the Heart" Kit Program. For anyone wishing to participate in this program to help our *Neighbors throughout the World*, the following items can be placed in the cartons in Fellowship Hall during the months of February and March.

To assist the Presbyterian Women in assembling School Kits and Health Kits, it would be most appreciated if donations are made as follows, alphabetically by last name. You may select to donate to one or both kits, as you choose.

<u>School Kits</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Health Kits</u>
Lined Notebooks (70pg)	(A, B, C, D)	Hand Towels
Large Eraser	(E, F, G, H, I)	Comb
Blunt Scissors	(J, K, L, M, N)	Nail Clippers
Pencil Sharpener	(O, P, Q, R, S)	Bar of Soap
12" Ruler	(T, V, W, Y, Z)	Tooth Brush

You will find envelopes in the pews marked for **Health Kits/School Kits** if you prefer to make a monetary contribution. This money will be used to purchase needed items for the kits or to help with processing and shipping expenses.

We thank you for helping to bring some health and happiness to a needy world!

Angie D'Albora and Martha Beard, World Service Committee Chairs

CAUGHT IN THE NET

Hospitalized since the last issue:

Evelyn Rae
Joe Hurtubise
Nancy Merritt

Ethelmae Boyle
Ruth Allard
Betty Young

Sympathy is extended to:

The family of Dan D'Antico who passed away unexpectedly on November 24.

NOTES RECEIVED

To My Dear Friends,

My sincere thanks to Peg Phillips for the church flowers. They were beautiful and I always enjoy her visits.

How do you thank an angel? How indeed: through a prayer. "Thank you, Sue Desmond", for all of your support and your help with my PW books; you did a great job and it helped me knowing that you had taken over for me. The goodies and everything else you brought to me were really appreciated. (You are my guardian angel.)

I want to thank all the waiters who helped out at our PW Christmas dinner, Barry for being the head waiter, and all the kitchen help. I was sorry to miss this event. Thank you Betty Mason for helping out with the tickets, and thank you Monika Algozino for filling in at the ticket table for me. Finally, thank you for my dinner that night; I enjoyed that, too.

I had such a nice surprise on December 16. Santa and Mrs. Claus (Bill and Sue Stock) paid me a visit which made my day and they brought me a nice dinner and a nice gift. Thank you so much!

Thank you also for the calls and cards. I greatly appreciated them all. It is comforting to know that so many care; it is a wonderful feeling when you're sick.

In His Love, Evelyn Rae

Dear Friends,

I appreciate all the cards, prayers and phone calls as I recover in Chicago from a fall on the ice. My recovery is going well and I hope to be home soon.

Love, Nancy Merritt

To all our friends and family at Greenwood CCP,

Thank you all for the notes and prayers we received during my stepfather Joseph Clarke's hospice and passing. It was so helpful to have your support during this difficult time.

The Fairbairn Family

Dear Members,

Thank you all for your kind words of sympathy, flowers, prayers and, especially, Pastor Clark's kind and loving attention and prayers for Mom (Anna Williams) both at the hospital and her funeral.

Lovingly, Jeanne and Al Williams

To the Greenwood Church Family,

Words cannot express how grateful Julia, Adam and I are to belong to such a wonderful church family. Thank you all for your expressions of sympathy, your thoughts and prayers, your hugs and cards, and your love and support during this difficult time for us. When I first joined the church, I had always felt a sense of belonging and knew there was something special here. We feel truly fortunate and blessed.

We know we will make it through this with all of you by our sides and for that we are forever thankful.

God bless you all.

Kim, Julia, and Adam D'Antico

Dear Dear Friends,

Many thanks to all who brightened the Christmas holiday for me. I was overwhelmed by your many cards, calls, flowers, plants and homemade goodies. Best of all were the visits made during your busy holiday season.

Special thanks to the ladies of Circle V. I was so sorry to miss the luncheon at Angie's. And Alan Jones! He always visits with Dunkin' coffee and music while he tries to convince me that the Yankees are God's team.

A Happy New Year to you all!

Love and peace, Mabel Fuller

Dear Greenwood Members,

Margaret Cady and son thank you so much for all the birthday and holiday cards and plants. Harry and Sheila Curran visited us at Golden Crest Nursing Center recently, and it meant so much to us. Margaret remembered this wonderful deacon from GPC and hope Harry and Sheila will visit again.

A Happy, Healthy New Year to all,

Dan Cady

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who so thoughtfully sent me get well cards during my illness and hospital stay. I was overwhelmed by the huge number of beautiful and thoughtful cards and notes! I would like to especially thank Monika Algozino, Al Williams, and Nancy Blasdell who also visited me in the hospital.

It is so comforting to be a part of such a loving and caring church family. Thank you all so very much. God bless and keep you.

In Christian Love,

Jonathan, Mary, and Elizabeth Farnsworth

A SPECIAL INVITATION



**Karen and Michael Grande
and
Troop 7 Buttonwoods
invite you to join them for an**

**Eagle Scout Court of Honor
for
Nicholas D. Grande**

**Saturday, March 6th, 2010
7:00 PM**

**Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian
Refreshments will be served after the Ceremony**

February Birthdays !!!

*Ruth Allard
Dick Arling
Don Baker
Martha Beard
Andrew Bergeron
Debbie Bryda
Greg Bryda
Pat Charpentier
Hannah Clark
Lydia Clark
Rachael Curry
Katie Dailey
Connor D'Albora
Melissa D'Albora
Nicole D'Albora
Amanda David
May Degnan
Ruth Devolve*

*Nancy Dickerman
Sarah Fraser
Cheryl Gillard
Carol Goodwin-Swanson
Helen Hausman
Kevin Klyberg
Mike Koczan
Elaine Magyar
Jean Martin
Julie McCaffrey
Steve Nazareth
Scott Paradise
Mandy-Lynn Phillips
Sherry Phillips
Sarah Prentiss
Cathy Schobel
Andrea Souza
Al Williams*



