



# FISHERMEN'S NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2009

*Edited/excerpted from the 2008 Annual Report of the Pastor:*

Those of you who have long been part of the body of Christ at Greenwood know there has been much discussion these past years regarding the Sunday morning schedule. From what I've (a) read in minutes, letters, and newsletters dating back the last two to three years and (b) heard from many individual members, I've learned the Session exerted considerable time and energy as a Board and through its various committees trying to reach a consensus answer to this question: *"How do we best accommodate the worship needs of our congregation?"*

The above is from an August 14, 1997 congregational letter I wrote on behalf of Session supporting Worship Committee's recommendation to adopt what was then a new schedule ... a schedule we followed for the next eleven years. As we all know, that original question (*"How do we best accommodate the worship needs of our congregation?"*) is one never answered with finality; it constantly frames the business of all the committees, boards and staff of the church. I also wrote in that 1997 letter, *"While realizing consensus does not always mean unanimity, I nevertheless seek as much agreement as possible on all matters facing the Session and/or congregation before proceeding, as I see no other Christ-honoring, practical way a congregation can make collective decisions."*

Last September a new worship schedule was implemented, and you were promised there would be an evaluation of the changes by our next annual meeting. In light of prayerful consideration of all comments received, ... the Worship Committee recommended and the Session approved another change, *if the way be clear* after consultation with the staff, volunteers and officers this would most directly affect (e.g., *Sunday School teachers, Deacons, those involved with the music ministry*). ...

**THIS NEW SCHEDULE WILL COMMENCE FEBRUARY 1, 2009: 9:00-10:00 FIRST SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES; 10:00-10:45 FELLOWSHIP HOUR; 10:45-11:45 MAIN SERVICE OF WORSHIP** (*with chancel choir, child care, Time with the Children, occasional Bell Choir and Joyful Song youth choir*). (*emphasis added*)

Again, I am (*at times painfully*) aware consensus does not always mean unanimity. In fact (*and especially in the compassionate context of the church*), consensus may not always reflect the will of the majority. The Presbyterian form of government is designed to discern the directive voice of Jesus speaking through His collective Body, the Church, and this is the prayerful recommendation of Session at this time.

Dear Members and Friends,

I write this just hours after the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting; those present today realize we have daunting challenges facing us in the days, weeks and months ahead. The congregation's decision to not approve the motion of the Stewardship Committee regarding the Memorial and Endowment Fund may necessitate budgetary adjustments which will, in turn, have potentially immediate and adverse impact on the mission, staff and programs of our church. Please be in prayer for your Session as they continue to diligently, honorably, prayerfully and thoroughly carry out their difficult responsibilities in this. I also implore each of you to diligently, honorably, prayerfully and thoroughly consider how God may be calling you to help.

On another note, thank you to all who helped make our Living Nativity last month such an engaging and endearing success! Thanks to the David family for so ably coordinating this, to all the young people who so enthusiastically took part, to Angie D'Albora for supplying the costumes, to the men who assembled and disassembled the borrowed stable, to the choir members and John Black for supplying carols and chimes, and to Isaac the donkey, his sheep friends and the David goats for their tolerance of it all. Thanks, too, to Greenwood member and professional photographer Rachael Czepyha for creating this greeting card and donating 300 copies for distribution in the Christmas Eve worship bulletins.



Stephen L. Clark, Pastor

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Adult Christian Education** will continue to meet during the Sunday School hour, 9:00 to 10:00 AM; at present we plan to remain in Fellowship Hall. We are about to “embark” on a six week series entitled If You Want to Walk on the Water, You’ve Got To Get Out of the Boat (how’s that for a pithy title?) This six session Zondervan Silver Medallion award-winning DVD curriculum is based on John Ortberg’s book by the same title; Ortberg currently serves as pastor at the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, one of the largest Presbyterian churches in the nation ([www.mppcfamily.org](http://www.mppcfamily.org)).

An excerpt from the introduction:

YOU’RE ONE STEP AWAY FROM THE ADVENTURE OF YOUR LIFE!

“Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come to you on the water.”

— Simon Peter

Peter may have been the first one out of the boat, but Jesus’ invitation to walk on water is for us all. But walk on water? What does that mean? Walking on water means facing our fears and choosing not to let fear have the last word discovering and embracing the unique calling of God on our lives, experiencing the power of God to accomplish what we would not be capable of doing on our own. This group resource helps you answer Christ’s call to greater faith, power-filled deeds, and a new way of knowing him. Relating the story in Matthew 14 to life today, teacher and bestselling author John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zones. Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God. These six remarkable, interactive sessions will teach you how to discern God’s call, transcend fear, risk faith, manage failure, and trust God.



### 39-er’s FEBRUARY GATHERING

**Top of the Bay**  
in Oakland Beach

**Wednesday, February 18, at 11:30 AM**

The cost per person is **\$12.00**.

#### Menu

*Stuffed Chicken Breast or Ham*  
*Salad*  
*Coffee or Tea and Dessert*

#### Program in Fellowship Hall

Several home schooled girls will share presentations from their girls competitive public speaking club experiences. Our own Amanda, Emily, and Megan David are part of this group.

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



## MISSION COMMITTEE

### Angel Tree

Thanks to everyone who was involved in helping with the success of the 2008 Angel Tree Program. Your contribution of time and gifts, given on behalf of the prisoner-parent in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, enabled you to be the hands and feet of prisoner-parents which helped those parents reach out to their children.



PYF wrapped your gifts on December 7 and we hosted a Gift Distribution event in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 13 where the Blasdell family assisted Santa, Mike Koczan. Check the pictures on the Mission Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall. Special thanks to those who delivered gifts to the families who did not attend the Distribution event. Your wheels made it possible to get many of the gifts into the hands of the prisoners' children. The program served 42 children in 24 families. At the suggested rate of \$20 per gift (we know that many of you spent more than the standard), the value of your gifts was \$1,680.

### Mission Budget

Throughout the Word of God we read references to tithing. Just as you individually support the work of Jesus Christ with your tithes and offerings, we as a church body commit a tithe, or 10%, of our budget to missions and missionaries. The Mission Committee, on your behalf, uses this money to provide financial help to missions and missionaries throughout Rhode Island, the United States, and the World.

We also provide offerings above the church budget amount from your generous giving to special mission causes such as One Great Hour of Sharing, Angel Tree, special dedicated gifts, and through the missionary envelopes. Along with the special gifts provided by other organizations of the church such as PW, Sunday School, Deacons, etc., Greenwood Church is *mission-minded* and for that we thank you.

### Team Japan (Walter and LouAnne Copeland)

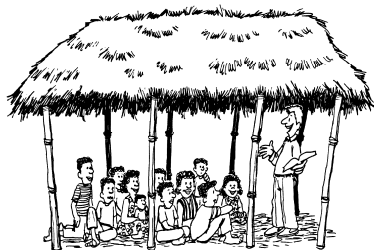
The Copelands write, "...2009 should prove to be a challenging year. Recession has hit Japan as well. So-called employment refugees, those who have lost their jobs amid the deepening economic recession, flocked to 'Hello Work' job replacement offices Monday, the year's first day of business for many companies and government offices. At a shrine in Tokyo, many businessmen and corporate managers in suits could be seen visiting the shrine from early morning. The shrine's precincts were crowded with so many visitors at about 11:00 am that it became hard for people to move freely. The shrine is reputed to help people praying for business prosperity. We pray that this will be the year they flock to the churches in search of real peace and prosperity of the heart!

However, in the midst of all that, we would like to bring you some good news. You have been praying for a pastor for our little church in Japan. On January 18, Sei Suzuki, a 29 year old single man will be preaching in view of a call. We know nothing about him yet, except that his father is also a pastor. PLEASE PRAY that if he is to be the new pastor, it will be a unanimous decision by the church people and that he will have a burden for the church and the area!"

### Jews for Jesus (Obad and Bimini Cohen)

The Cohens write, "The economy is being pinched.... I have spoken to those of you who have lost jobs.... My children have also lost one income and a home.... You might have other needs that we want to lift up to the Throne room of our God. In our hearts, we earnestly pray for our Lord God Almighty to meet every need in your life and fill you with the joy of His salvation.

We give thanks for the two persons who prayed with us to receive the Lord today here in the Boston area: Pam, who is a single mom and has suffered many hardships in her life; and a young man named Craig who was intrigued by a broadside Oded gave him in front of Boston University."



### Rhode Island Young Life

Corenna Hoyt and Jennifer Cameron with Rhode Island Young Life presented information for both adults and youth in the Sunday School on January 18 as well as five minutes for mission in the two worship services. Young Life's stated **mission** is "introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith." Young Life's **vision** is that "every adolescent will have the opportunity to meet Jesus Christ and follow Him."

### *The Mission Committee*

Henry Ruppenthal, Chair; Debra Stacey, Vice-Chair; Myrle Dean; Emmy Kmet; Chris Nazareth

## THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

**“I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”  
(1 Corinthians 9:32)**

As we start the New Year, it is important for all of us to focus on the many priorities in our lives. The Stewardship Committee will be focused on working with the other committees of the Session to improve and enhance the many programs and activities of the church while maintaining or reducing expenses. The Investment committee will be focused on the makeup of the investments in the Memorial and Endowment Fund to be sure they are in line with current economic conditions.

The series of meetings that were held to discuss financial issues relative to the 2008 Budget, the 2009 Budget and the Memorial and Endowment Fund provided a lot of good feedback to the Stewardship Committee. We appreciated your open and candid comments and discussions. We will be holding meetings throughout the year to keep you informed of the church finances. We also welcome your feedback and input at any time. You can contact me or committee members, Wilma Swanson, John Crankshaw and Evon Banning or the church treasurer, David Dickerman.



**“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.”  
(Acts 4:32)**

Barry Baxter  
Stewardship Committee Chair

### HART BEAT

Advent and Christmas may be behind us, but Lent will begin in just a few weeks! All the choirs will learn thoughtful, meditative music to enhance our worship during that wonderful season (my favorite, in fact). The doors are always open to new members.



I was fortunate to attend an excellent continuing education workshop sponsored by Choristers Guild on January 9-10 in Richardson, Texas. It was the perfect way to renew my energies and get lots of good ideas (and free music samples) for both the singing and ringing choirs. Additionally, I bought some new organ music, an inspiration to keep practicing. It was lovely to thaw out, get hugs from family and friends, attend my “old” church and refill my internal font with energy and enthusiasm. Thank you for the opportunity. By the way, the Texans said, “Tell ya’ll hey”.

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**  
Thank you to everyone who brought toys for the South Providence Ministries, paper goods for the shelters, and food for the needy. Also thank you to all who knit hats and baby blankets for Women and Infants Hospital and the Ronald MacDonald House throughout the year. They are greatly appreciated.

Nancy Collins  
PW Community Outreach Co-Chair



## NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Before I talk about upcoming events, I would like to thank everyone who had a part in our successful Bazaar on December 6. Without the help of many hands – women, men and teens – we could not have had such a wonderful day. It is such a special time of fun and fellowship – which certainly makes the hours of preparation seem secondary. Our profit was approximately \$10,700, which will help support our budget for the next two years. Since my area this year was Attic Treasures, I want to say a special thank-you to Eric McNeeley who graciously came to the church the Tuesday following the Bazaar and took ALL the unsold items to the Salvation Army!



The Winter Retreat for Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Southern New England was held January 30 & 31. Several women from Greenwood's PW attended—more on that next month.

Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing through March, PW will sponsor its annual collection for the Gifts of the Heart Kits. For your convenience, donation boxes will be in Fellowship Hall. Items needed are listed below and have been divided by the first letter of your last name. Thank you for your continued generosity with this worthwhile project.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

From Church Signs for February 17<sup>th</sup> -

***Nobody can do everything,  
but everybody can do something.***

Betty Stacey for Presbyterian Women

### GIFTS OF THE HEART PROGRAM (school and health kits)

	<u>School Kits</u>	<u>Health Kits</u>
A-B-C-D	Blunt Scissors	Hand Towel
E-F-G-H	Pencil Sharpener	Washcloth
I-J-K-L	Large Eraser	Bar of Bath Soap
M-N-O-P	Ruled Pads (170 pgs)	Tooth Brush
QRSTU	Pencil with eraser	Nail clippers
V-W-Y	12" Ruler	Comb

There will be envelopes in the pews if anyone prefers to give a cash donation which will help with the shipping costs.

### CIRCLE NEWS FOR FEBRUARY *"Sharing Our Blessings Through Action"*

CIRCLES will be back on their regular schedules for LOVE month after a break and some wonderful Christmas parties. We are ready for new work and here's our plan for February:

Circle I meets on the fourth Tuesday at 1:00 PM in the church parlor for the Horizons' Bible Study, *"Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor"*.

Circle III will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 10, at church and will share some "Love Remembrances".

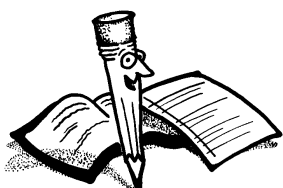
Circle IV will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 10, in the Church Parlor.

Circle V will meet on Wednesday, February 4, at 10:30 AM at church and will host the MS Group.

Circle VII will meet on Tuesday, February 10, at 7:00 PM at the home of Lynda Baker to work on a craft project.

If you are concerned about staying warm, please visit one of our Circles during Love month—we'd love to have you!

Karen Baxter  
Circle Coordinator



#### Now Collecting:

May Basket containers (scrubbed out cardboard milk and juice containers)

&

Christmas containers and small ornaments for Lynda Baker

Items may be left on the blue table marked accordingly.



**HOSPITALIZED since the last issue:**

Betty McLeod    Christie McKay



**NOTES RECEIVED**



Dear Members of Greenwood Church,  
My sincere thanks to Cheryl Bullock for bringing me the beautiful vase of carnations and mums from the Board of Deacons. Thank you also to everyone for the birthday cards.

Thank you, too, to Joyce Riccitelli for her pleasant visit and for bringing me flowers.

Finally, thank you to Peggy Phillips for her pre-Christmas visit when she brought me a beautiful card, a miniature Christmas tree with a macaroni angel on it, and a tin of cookies.

I continue to receive cards from many of you and I appreciate your thoughtfulness. I am truly grateful for being a member of such a kind, caring church.

In Christian love, Gladys Bracker

To the members of Greenwood Church,  
I want to thank Jay David for his visit with Ralph and me and for the lovely flowers. It was a pleasure to see him and we hope to be back after the first of the year. Thank you again.

Sincerely, Barbara and Ralph

Dear Greenwood Church Friends and Family,  
We thank all of you for your prayers, cards, and well-wishes during my recent weeks of treatment. We also enjoyed the visit with Joyce Riccitelli and the chancel flowers she brought with her. I am happy to be back and grateful to be a part of you all.

Jackie Combs and Family

Dear Greenwood Community Church Family,  
We would like to express our deepest thanks to you all for helping us get through this past year while Tom was deployed. Your thoughts, concerns, prayers, words of wisdom and encouragement as well as the cards and packages sent were greatly appreciated. We are blessed for Tom's safe arrival home and cherish our family's reunion.

You all are a great group of people and we are grateful for all of the support you have given us. We wouldn't have made it without you.

In Christian love,  
Tom, Nancy, Ashley, and Laura Taylor

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls and concern after my recent "ice incident." I appreciate the many offers of help, especially Betty Stacey who stepped in to keep the office running smoothly. January was a difficult month but filled with blessings! Thank you for being there for me.

In His love, Sue Desmond

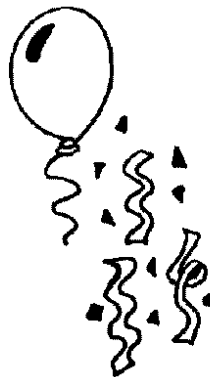
Dear Greenwood Friends,  
We would like to thank all who sent cards or thoughts of my brother David's passing. Your kindness is appreciated.

Bernie and Louise Ferrante



**February Birthdays:**

Ruth Allard  
Dick Arling  
Don Baker  
Martha Beard  
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  
Kara Jacobsen  
Kevin Klyberg  
Mike Koczan  
Sarah Leggett  
Elaine Magyar  
Jean Martin  
Matthew Martinez  
Julie McCaffrey  
Steve Nazareth  
Dee Nichols  
Scott Paradise  
Mandy-Lynn Phillips  
Sherry Phillips  
Andrea Souza  
Al Williams