



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

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

DECEMBER 2008 / JANUARY 2009

Dear Members and Friends,



As of this writing, Thanksgiving is just days away, eighty-one holiday gift baskets prepared by the Deacons are sitting in Fellowship Hall awaiting delivery, and we are once again gearing up for Advent and the celebration of Christmas. I hope to see many of you at any (or all!) of the numerous events and services in the weeks ahead, many of which you will read about in the next pages: The Presbyterian Women's Christmas Dinner December 2 and their biennial Country Christmas Bazaar December 6, the choir cantata "A Festival of Carols" December 14 in the morning and the Living Nativity on the front lawn in the evening, and, of course, the special Christmas Eve services of worship at 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM. This is always a wonderfully active, worshipful and enjoyable time in the Greenwood Church community, and I'm sure this year will be no exception.

It is especially appropriate in this season of Thanksgiving to express my gratitude to all of you for your faithful prayers, cards, telephone calls and thoughtful words during my parents' and my daughter's recent medical difficulties: my father's sudden and totally unexpected heart attack and subsequent bypass surgery last April, my mother's brain aneurism surgery in October, and 11-year-old Hannah's recent heart procedure at Children's Hospital Boston. All three experienced some initial "bumps" after their surgeries, but all three are now well on the road to recovery ... thanks in no small part, I'm sure, to your prayerful faithfulness. (*If I may, I would like to solicit your prayers for my oldest brother Alan; we've all been stunned to learn he will be undergoing a possible quadruple bypass surgery December 1.*) For those of you who didn't know the details of Hannah's surgery, the following (*slightly edited*) summary I emailed to colleague and friend Pastor Phil Curtis might fill in the gaps:

Hi Phil – Sorry not to respond sooner, but things have been very full and a bit topsy-turvy these past weeks; you may or may not know of my youngest daughter's recent medical issues. Hannah had a heart catheterization procedure Nov 7 at Children's Hospital Boston to correct a condition called SVT ... basically, since kindergarten she's had episodes of heartbeat acceleration of up to 220 bpm caused by some wayward heart current that has now been located and (hopefully) zapped away for good. She had one catheterization in the right leg and three in the left. She was in overnight (I stayed with her), and that was supposed to be it. However, there have been some complications with severe left leg pain post-catheterization; she is still unable to walk. We've had two trips (*one to Hasbro Children's in Providence Thursday Nov 13, and another to Boston Nov. 16; the latter took a chunk of eight hours out of our Sunday*) to try to get this diagnosed and treated properly ... to make a long story short, it appears to be a hematoma of loose blood that escaped during the catheterization and worked its way into the tendon and muscle of the lower thigh, causing inflammation that is excruciating ... they now have Hannah on Percocet (sp?), hoping alleviating the pain might enable her to move more freely, and thus expedite the diffusion of this bad blood. That's the plan, anyway. I've been doing what I can to keep up at the church, tend to my other two and to keep the house livable; but it has been a flurry of cardiologists, radiologists, ultrasound technicians, nurses, fellows, multiple mileage trips ... and lots of sitting around little sterile rooms wondering what's going on ... ever since Nov 6. That coupled with my mother having extensive brain aneurism surgery in PA late October, involving a few quick down-n-back trips to the Philadelphia area, has made for some rather interesting schedules of late.

To update: Hannah has been a trooper through it all; nothing quashes her sunny disposition, even as she was shuffling up and down the stairs on her back side and motoring around our improvised living room-kitchen-dining room "track" in the wheelchair. She's been off the pain medication, out of the wheelchair and back to school since November 19; although she still walks a bit like a wounded flamingo, she should have a complete recovery ... and she is VERY eager to get back to singing in the Children's Choir and playing for the Bell Choir; it broke her heart not being able to perform those two Sundays. By the way, the pediatric cardiologist who performed the procedure, Dr. John Triedman, is the same cardiologist who worked wonders with Daniel Dickerman and his daughter Megan, who many of you remember shared a congenital heart defect that was surgically corrected at Children's Hospital Boston a few years back.



One of the occupational hazards of being a pastor and a father is the tendency to see all kinds of illustration material in the lives of my children ... much of which I have to, um, resist using in order to preserve some semblance of privacy and dignity for them ... but there's a sermon in there somewhere about Hannah's unexpected post-surgery complication! I'm sure I'll develop this more fully sometime in the future, but it struck me how nothing more than a little bad blood ... blood that somehow escaped from where it was supposed to be and thus wasn't performing its usual life-sustaining, healing, cleansing duties ... caused such great consternation even among the most experienced professionals, led us to think and worry that something may be dreadfully and even lethally amiss, and caused such agony as to so painfully cripple an otherwise healthy, thriving, full-of-life and eager-to-serve body. No wonder Paul spent so much time admonishing the early Christians to beware of "bad blood" in the Body of Christ, the church!

Stephen L. Clark, Pastor

THIS MONTH IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

christianed@gccp.org

Stephen Nazareth, Brian Flannery, Lisa David, Matt Barber, Wendy Petrucci


News From The Sunday School:

Advent: Each Sunday in Advent, from November 30, through December 21, Sunday School will begin at the usual time of 9:45 AM, but at 10:25 AM, all the children and teachers will meet in the 1st/2nd grade room on the third floor for an Advent service. Sunday School will then end at the usual time of 10:45 AM.





Mitten Tree Mission Project: The 1st/2nd graders will be collecting winter clothing this year. You can place your donations on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Items needed are “new” or “gently used” **mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, coats, and boots.** All sizes are welcome.


December 28: There will be no Sunday School.



First Ever Living Nativity!!!
Sunday, December 14
4pm - 5:30pm

For the first time, Greenwood Community Church will host a living nativity in our own front yard! Volunteers to help make this event a success are needed. Please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. If you cannot volunteer, please be sure to visit that night, and bring your friends and neighbors as well. We would like to see this become an annual tradition and community outreach project. The bells in the bell tower will be chiming, the carolers singing, the sheep baa-ing and the donkey braying. Hot cocoa and cookies will be waiting for all who visit! See you there!





What's Going On in Adult Sunday School:

Pastor Clark continues to present an overview of his doctoral thesis, “A Family of Families: Recovering the Seventeenth Century Puritan Vision for Family, Church, and Society” and will continue through to the end of the year. Recent classes have been focusing on the topic “The Nature and Necessity of Conversion,” and how this concept has been understood (and misunderstood) over the years. Have an idea for a future topic? Please share it with us. All are invited and welcome to attend; although this has been a series, each class is designed to also include those who are just coming in.

PYF News

Many thanks to all who participated in the recent (rainy) retreat at Camp Aldersgate November 13-16, and a special tip of the hat to leaders/helpers Matt Barber, Chris Nazareth, Steve Nazareth, Eric McNielly, Emmy Kmet and Jenna Fairbairn for all they did to provide an excellent time of spiritual enrichment, fellowship and good fun. 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, read more about him and the area in Haiti where he lives in Fellowship Hall. Check out the new Youth Group (PYF) page on www.gccp.org. It's *still* a work in progress so feel free to make suggestions. We'll be wrapping “Angel Tree” gifts on December 7th and holding our Yankee Swap/Re-gift Party in early January.

18+ Young Adult Education

Matt Barber continues teaching this class for people 18 and older, which begins 15 minutes after the second service and meets in the PYF room. Plans are in the works for “going out into the world” through some outreach projects. Bible studies are based upon the input from the class: dealing with issues and topics of concern for all who attend, and analyzing questions they have from readings. This has been and will continue to be a fun time in God's word, prayer, and ministry. Matt looks forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings. God Bless.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Angel Tree

Angel Tree is a unique ministry that gives the Greenwood congregation an opportunity to share Christ's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. Participating in Angel Tree is a powerful way for the Greenwood Church community to lovingly answer the biblical call to minister to the least of these.



The deadline for returning your gifts to the Angel Tree in Fellowship Hall is **Sunday, December 7**. PYF will be wrapping your gifts after the eleven o'clock worship service that day. We will host a Gift Distribution event in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 13. The families receiving your gifts are invited to attend between one and three o'clock in the afternoon to receive the gifts from the Santa family (Blasdell family). Refreshments will be served and pictures taken.

Any families not attending the Gift Distribution event will need to have their gifts delivered. If you can volunteer to deliver gifts, see Henry Ruppenthal. If you can provide refreshments for the Gift Distribution event, see Myrle Dean.

Angel Tree gifts are given on behalf of the prisoner-parent in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. You are the hands and feet of prisoner-parents and help them reach out to their children.

World Impact

Dr. Peter Padro and his wife Sonia are members of the World Impact ministry team serving Jesus Christ to people in the inner city of Newark, New Jersey. Peter and Sonia are planning to take part in three areas of World Impact ministry, TUMI-NJ (The Urban Ministry Institute), Newark Christian School, and Hispanic empowerment. Dr. Padro will also be working to translate TUMI's manual, forms, and other literature into the Spanish language.

World Impact missionaries live in the communities where they serve. They creatively share the gospel through thrift stores, tutoring, and neighborhood Bible studies. Compassion-based community ministries like Christian schools and a medical/dental clinic help equip the urban poor and provide nurture for maturing believers. Job training, camps, and conference centers provide training in life-skills to strengthen relationships and nurture families. World Impact's School for Urban Cross-Cultural Church Planting trains missionaries, inter-city lay people, and clergy to plant churches.

Dr. Padro requests our prayers of support as he gets to know the pastors and churches in Newark and as he provides classes that train and equip men and women for the glory of God.

ECHO (Educational Concern for Hunger Organization)

ECHO is a non-profit, inter-denominational Christian organization that has been assisting a global network of missionaries and development workers since 1981. The ECHO vision is *"to bring glory to God and a blessing to mankind by using science and technology to help the poor."*

ECHO is dedicated to providing agricultural solutions for families growing food under difficult circumstances and fights world hunger through innovative ideas, information, seeds and agricultural training. ECHO currently networks with development workers and missionaries in over 180 countries.

This holiday season ECHO is offering a unique opportunity for you to honor individuals through the gift of a fruit tree, nursery, new crop, community garden, or appropriate technology. To give a gift of hope, call ECHO (239-543-3246 ext. 0), or log on to their web site at www.echonet.org (then click on Gift Catalog link).

Emmanuel Hospital Association – India

Emmanuel Hospital Association is the largest Christian non-government provider of healthcare in India, with 20 hospitals and 30 community based projects in 14 states of India. It was founded in 1930 and taken over by EHA management in 1974.

EHA helps transform the lives of the poor and underprivileged people in rural areas of North, Northeast, and Central India. EHA serves people and communities regardless of race, caste, creed, gender, ethnic background or religious belief. Today the service priorities of the hospital are Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Ophthalmology, Dentistry, and Radiology.

The Mission Committee

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

HART BEAT



It's here! The fast-paced time of year when we're awash in all things "holiday"—Thanksgiving feasts, preparations for Christmas, and seasonal songs filling the air. Of course, there will be plenty of music filling the Greenwood sanctuary this season. **Both the Chancel and Joyful Song Choirs will present their main Christmas offerings on December 14 during 11:00 worship.** The children will sing of preparing for the Lord and lighting the advent candles. Then the adults will lead a lessons and

carol service, "Festival of Carols" by Joseph Martin. This lovely setting of old and new music takes us on a journey from the fall of Adam and the foretelling of Jesus' birth all the way to Bethlehem and beyond. The congregation joins the choir on some of your favorite carols, so we look forward to this special celebration on December 14.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

"But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me." (Psalm 13:5-6)

This is the second year that we have addressed Christian stewardship from the perspective of each of us asking ourselves, what is God calling me to do with the time and talents and gifts he has given me. While the call for careful personal reflection is the same as last year, we find ourselves in a much more challenging and dynamic economic environment.

A review of the "Estimate of Giving Cards" received to date shows a change in how we as a congregation are addressing our personal stewardship commitment. The number of new pledges is up; this is both new members and members who have regularly given before, but chose not to make a pledge. While the number of increased pledges is down, the number of decreased pledges is also down. The number of pledges that remain the same is up.

To date, it appears that there will be a modest increase in our planned giving for 2009.

The Stewardship committee is working with the other committees of the Session to be faithful stewards of the funds the church has received from you and our other sources of new money. We are doing this to minimize the amount of money that will need to be taken from the income from our investments. We ask for your help in this endeavor by your fulfilling of your pledges and planned giving for 2008.



"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

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking people interested in serving as Deacon or Elder. We will be making recommendations to the congregation at the annual meeting in January. If you are interested in being considered or know someone whom you wish to recommend, please contact the committee at nominating@gccp.org.

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



It is crunch time in PW as our biennial Bazaar is just around the corner – **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, from 9 a.m.-3:00 .p.m.** Beginning December 1, Fellowship Hall will be abuzz as our year-long preparations will all come together. Plan to begin your Christmas shopping right here! I can promise you wonderful hand crafted items, gift baskets, a silent auction, the pantry & bake shop, and Attic Treasures - all at great prices. A lunch room and coffee shop will be available for respite, and pictures with Santa will delight the small fry! The money we raise will go to support PW's many mission projects.

On Tuesday December 9, we will hold our annual Christmas Dinner and Program.

Bazaar shopping at 5:30 p.m. (if anything is left over!), will be followed by dinner (prepared by Stu & Betty Mason and served by the men of the church), and a performance by One Voice, the talented vocal group from Woodbury Union Church. If you are planning to attend, please remember to bring a paper product, a non-perishable food item, and an unwrapped gift for a child (infant through teen). Gifts will go to the South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. Food and paper goods will go to local shelters.

The Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Southern New England winter retreat will be held on January 30-31, at the Immaculate Conception Convent & Retreat Center in Putnam, CT. The retreat topic, "Time and Its Gifts", will be led by the Rev. Susan Pfeil from Stamford CT. If you would like to attend, please call me by January 15th at 737-0717. This is always a wonderful overnight as we meet with women from all over the Presbytery.

Our annual Gifts of the Heart Program will begin early next year. The congregation has been very generous in the past with their support for this program. Watch the Sunday Bulletin insert for details.

I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. May God richly bless each of you this Christmas Season and in 2009.

From Church Signs for December 25th -

Christmas is not a day, it is a state of mind.

Betty Stacey
for Presbyterian Women

Several women have indicated that they would be interested in a daytime Circle that has varied programming, similar to what is offered in our night Circles III and IV. It is always our hope that we can offer a convenient place for as many women as possible in our Circles. Please call me at 737-0717, or Sandy Olson at 647-7034, if you would like to discuss the possibility of becoming a member of this new Circle. At the present time we suggest the meeting begin with a bag lunch at 11:30 a.m., drink and dessert provided, and end at 1:30 p.m. Because we want to tailor this new circle to the needs of prospective members we plan to hold only 4 meetings in 2009, on the 2nd Tuesdays of March through June.

CIRCLE NEWS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

"Sharing Our Blessings Through Action"

Circle friends have enjoyed a very interesting fall season, which will culminate with our famous Christmas Bazaar. As a wise woman once said, "There is life after the Bazaar", so here's a little run-down of what's to follow. Please note the different dates and times for each Circle meeting:

Circle I, the Bible Study Circle, will not meet in December. They will meet next on Tuesday, January 27, at 1:00P.M., in the Church Parlor. The Lesson will be Chapter 4 of "Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor". All are welcome.

CIRCLE III will meet on Tuesday, December 16, at 6:30 P.M., at Joan-Sandra McKnight's home. Circle members will bring gifts for their two adopted families at the Rhode Island Family Shelter. Also this year, instead of a Yankee Swap, members will put that money into gift certificates for the needy.

In January they will meet on Tuesday, the 13th, in the PYF Room at church to share books they've enjoyed.

Circle IV will hold their annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13, at 3:00 PM, at Ferns & Flowers Tea House. After lunch there will be a Yankee Swap.

CIRCLE V will meet on Monday, December 22, 12:00 noon, at Angie D'Albora's home for a Christmas party and Yankee Swap.

In January, they will meet on Wednesday, the 7th, at 10:30 AM at the church.

CIRCLE VII will spend the week before the bazaar making "greenery creations".

In January they will relax and go out to eat.

Have a very blessed and happy Christmas!

Karen Baxter, Circle Coordinator

CAUGHT IN THE NET

Hospitalized since the last issue:

Hannah Clark
Marshall Martin

Ruth Gorton
John Pickup, Sr.

Sympathy to:

Louise Ferrante on the loss of her brother
in November in Maryland.

□ □ □ NOTES RECEIVED □ □ □

Dear Greenwood Church Friends,

Thank you Pastor Clark and all my friends for the many prayers, cards, and chancel flowers sent to me while I was in the hospital. I hope to be back in church soon.

Sincerely, Fran Bonn

Dear Greenwood Community Church Members,

Thanks to Peggy Phillips for her pleasant Halloween visit and for bringing me a card and treats and the Halloween card from Circle V. It is always a treat to be remembered by the thoughtful members of Greenwood Church.

In Christian love, Gladys Bracker

To Rev. Clark,

Ralph and I would like to thank you for your visit last Sunday and for the lovely flowers. I am hoping to be able to attend church soon and really feel well again. Thank you again.

Barbara and Ralph Matteson

To Greenwood Community Church Members,

Thank you so very much for the lovely basket of flowers that came to my hospital room while I was recuperating from surgery.

Many thanks for the cards and get well wishes which cheered me up so much. I feel truly blessed to belong to such a caring family.

Ethelmae Boyle

Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Clark, Sue Desmond, Elaine Magyar, and the Greenwood Community Church,

City Year would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve with you last Saturday. It was a pleasure for us to lend a hand in maintaining your facilities. We can't wait to work with you again.

Eric, Harry, Chris, Merton, Cesar,
Morgan, Sam, Sheena, and Liz

39-ER'S

December

Timmy's One Bay Avenue
Oakland Beach

Wednesday, December 17 @ 11:30

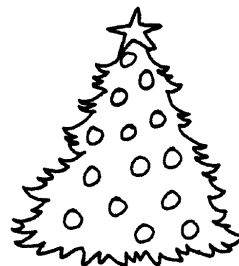
Cost \$12.00

Menu

Lamb or Turkey, Soup, Coffee or Tea and Dessert

Yankee Swap in Fellowship Hall @ 2:00

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January

Timmy's One Bay Avenue
Wednesday, January 21 @ 11:30

Menu

Baked Scrod or Yankee Pot Roast, Soup, Coffee or Tea and Dessert

Pound Auction in Fellowship Hall @ 2:00

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



Birthdays

December:

Matt Algozino
Evon Banning
C. J. Bataitis
Millicent Budlong-
Springer
Justin Carpenter
Jason Carson
Joe Casinelli
Natalie Chenel
Greg Damm
Elizabeth
Farnsworth
Mary Farnsworth
Ryan Fraser
Karen Grande
Doris Hamel
Danny Hayman
Benno Lebkuchner
Cathy Maguire
Marcy Mahoney
Denise Mair
Marshall Martin
Abe Monahan
Shelley Monahan
Carter Nolan
Heather Nolan
Kay Peterson
Brandon Phillips
Ken Phillips
Mildred Plouffe
David Riccitelli
Larry Rittmann
Joann Rudolph
Bonnie Sorgel
Peggy Swanson

January:

Severin Bergeron
Virginia Brodeur
Christina Casinelli
Jack Crankshaw
Tom D'Albora
Hunter Damm
Reilly Damm
Kim D'Antico
Cheryl Donilon
Kevin Donilon
Jena Fairbairn
Curtis Fink
Brian Flannery
Ginger Gastall
Ruth Gorton
Dave Greco
Kurt Gudmundson
Shawn
Gudmundson
Cynthia Hackett
Shirley Hall
Alex Harrop
Rebecca Hurd
Paula Johnson
Tarah Krahenbill-
Pickup
Deb MacKinnon
Norma MacLeod
Phil Mahoney
Brittney Martinez
Stu Mason
Tom Mays
Jason McNeely
Nancy Merritt
Norbert Morin
Ari Nazareth
John Phillips
Owen Phillips
Austin Pickup
Timoli Richardson
Anita Ricker
Evelyn Robinson
Alex Rudolph
Russ Rudolph
Faith Ruhren
Carol Snyder
Don Sorgel
Karen Summers
Lynn Summers
Fred Summers, Sr.
Ron Swanson
Sean Walstead

