



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

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

MARCH 2008

Dear Members and Friends,



It was good to see so many of you who joined us following worship February 24 for an early celebration of Mike Koczan's 23rd birthday, which falls on February 29, 2008! **Thank you** to the Membership Committee for arranging the details of this celebration and recognition, AND thanks to all who so generously contributed toward a financial gift (*as of this writing, the contributions have yet to be fully counted*) and signed cards for this wonderfully engaging, energetic, ever-amiable and always upbeat pillar of our church and community. It borders on understatement to say that Mik-eee is indeed a gift of

God to this congregation; people of all ages have been and continue to be blessed and touched by this man's jovial presence in our midst. Mike's effervescent nature and seemingly ageless, boundless, and contagious enthusiasm for all things once prompted one of our young adult PYF leaders to comment that perhaps Hasbro should market a Mik-eee Action Figure!

A newspaper article written just prior to his "twentieth" birthday begins, *"This month, Mike Koczan celebrated his 54th wedding anniversary with wife Donna --- only a few weeks shy of his 20th birthday. During that time, Koczan has served during World War II, raised a family, been head equipment manager at Brown University, and helped build the Newport Bridge."* Not bad for a man of twenty! Mike and Donna formally joined our church on December 2, 1951. Through the years he's served as a Sunday School teacher, elder, and deacon (*in fact, he is still an active member of the Board of Deacons!*). I believe he has the honor of being the only male to belong to a Women's Circle; he's been an "auxiliary member" of Circle V forty years; he continues to be a vital helping hand for Circle V's monthly luncheon hosting of the Multiple Sclerosis Key Club. As an elder, Mike served as commissioner to Presbytery innumerable times, represented our Presbytery at three Synod conventions, and served on the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. He's served two terms as president of the 39ers, and one year as treasurer. He sang many years in our choir, played the role of Santa at more Christmas bazaars, dinners and caroling events than anyone can count, and continues to carry a long, long tradition of helping at the annual May Breakfast, wearing his famed apron emblazoned with *"If I had known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself!"* He has helped with many church building maintenance projects, chaired our Evangelism Committee five years, coordinated two pictorial directories and assisted with a third, and continues to serve as Head Usher each and every Sunday morning. He's the reigning captain of our bowling team and is the only active charter member in the Warwick Church Bowling League (*established 1951*); he continues to maintain his usual scoring average each week. You can see his name on a plaque on a wall in Meadowbrook Lanes twice honoring him as Sportsman of the Year. He continues as our "official" church photographer, and maintains the informative bulletin board in Fellowship Hall on which he displays pictures, articles, announcements and member-related recognitions gleaned from various publications. There's so much more that could be written about the full scope of Mike's involvement here these past six decades, but space constrains; suffice it to say that it's impossible for me to imagine this church without his cheerful presence engaging each and every person who comes through our doors.

Many of you were privileged to know his dear wife, Donna. Mike was fond of saying their engagement was a dual engagement, for it took place at Wright Patterson Field, HQ of the Army Air Force on December 7, 1941 ... Pearl Harbor Day. That very night, Tech Sergeant Koczan had the responsibility of shutting down the base and had to send his brand new fiancé home in his new DeSoto. Donna went on with Mike to have many moves and adventures in the years ahead, living just about everywhere from Mexico to Canada, becoming the proud parents of one daughter, Kristin Ann, the grandparents of two, Kelli-Lyn and Regan; the great-grandparents of three, Trista, Kaylee and Mason. Donna and Mike faithfully, joyfully and tenderly honored their marriage covenant for nearly 62 years ... for better, for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death did them part October 21, 2003.

The following is an excerpt from Mike's thank-you note to the congregation shortly after Donna's passing: *"Again, Mike and Donna would like to thank you, our Greenwood Church family, for being a meaningful part of our lives for more than fifty years. To our newer church members and perhaps those who have been reluctant or not been asked to become active in this "family", please consider sharing yourself ... I can attest to the rewards. Everyone surely has something to offer; it's not enough to just occupy a pew on Sunday ... become a part of the family. This is a great bunch of people ... join one of the church circles or ask any of the elders or deacons how you can become kin to this clan, or ask me!"*

Mike, on behalf of the congregation, I would like to thank YOU for being a meaningful part of our lives, using the words of Paul to Philemon: *"For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you."* (Philemon 7, RSV)

Happy Birthday, Mike. May you enjoy many more.

Stephen L. Clark, Pastor



NEWS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

World Relief Bake Sale: Again, this was a big success – nearly \$300 was raised. Thanks to the 5th & 6th graders for hosting this event and thank you to all who participated!

Food Drive:

A big thank you to grades 3/ 4 and to all church members who donated to our annual food drive.

Heifer Coin Drive: On March 2nd we'll collect quarters and March 9th is the end of the Heifer Coin Drive when we will be collecting "dollars". As mentioned last month, we were able to raise over \$1000 in 2007. Again, thank you for your generosity.



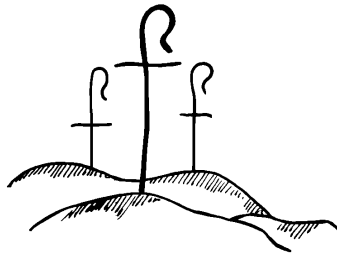
Palm Sunday Procession: Children will go right from their Sunday School classes to join the Sunday Procession. Parents are welcome to join.

Easter Egg Hunt: All children through grade 6 are invited to attend on Saturday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m. Meet in Fellowship Hall and be sure to bring a basket!



Easter Sunday, March 23: No Sunday School!

And many thanks as always to all of our wonderful Sunday School teachers!!!



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

(Palm Sunday Procession with Isaac the Donkey at 10:15)

Mundy Thursday: 7:30 PM

(Cantata, A Service of Darkness, by Dale Wood and Service of Holy Communion)

Good Friday: 1:30 PM

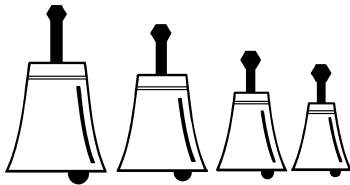
(Sanctuary open Noon – 3:00 PM for meditation)

Easter Sunrise: 6:00 AM

(Continental Breakfast immediately following in Fellowship Hall)

Easter: 9:00 & 11:00 AM

(identical worship services)



HART BEAT

Wow, bells are ringing twice a week at Greenwood!

The Wednesday youth bells are back in the swing, and we've started a second choir that meets Sundays after worship. The new group is truly diverse -- the youngest member is a fourth grader, and the oldest has grandchildren! Both groups are full of enthusiasm, and we're looking forward to ringing beautiful music for worship.

The Chancel Choir is faithfully rehearsing and singing music for Lent as we prepare a special Passion Week presentation for Maundy Thursday. This dramatic offering, *A Service of Darkness*, will definitely add meaning to your Lenten/Easter season.

Our singing choir needs more members in every section.

Please consider joining us soon, and make music part of your personal ministry. Let's talk! hartmusic@gmail.com or 837-8873.

More singers = better sound = our best offering to God.

Your partner in ministry,
Kathy Hart

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Seeing an article titled Stewardship usually brings thoughts of financial commitments and church expenses. This article highlights passages from the New Testament of the Bible to provoke your thoughts and prayers on how we all fit into God's family.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last.

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6**..... **7**If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. **8**This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

1 Corinthians 12:4There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5**There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. **6**There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world..... **15**..... **16**..... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? **15**..... **16**..... **17** faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Blessings,
The Stewardship Committee



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

At this point, with new committee appointees and chairpersons just going into position, I see a new energy in the Member/Care committee. This committee has been running understaffed for the last year and has needed a new "shot in the arm", which I believe is happening.



We had our first meeting with **ten inquirers** on Sunday, February 10. Because of school vacations, we are skipping February 17 & 24. The next classes are scheduled for March 2 and 9, followed by a special Session meeting before our 10:30 service on March 16, Palm Sunday. The March 2nd class will be an introduction to the various committees of this church. The March 9th class will be covering "What do we believe?". We are looking forward to holding another class in the fall.

We continue to ask for volunteers to be **greeters**. Greeting takes about 15 to 20 minutes before the service and is a fun way to get to know a lot of people from our church family. No practice is required. We request that greeters wear their name badges found in Fellowship Hall so people get to know your name.

It looks like our **Pictorial Directory** is on track again. I have the proof book to correct and am in the midst of that task as I write this article. Next will be to return it to Olan Mills to provide the final product. Our plan is to have these available in the first quarter of 2008.

Wishing everyone a healthy, safe winter...

Al Williams
Committee Member



MISSION COMMITTEE

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing began in 1949 when a lot of Christian leaders, seeing the devastation that World War II had left in much of the world, recognized both a responsibility to our sisters and brothers and an opportunity to witness to a loving God. Today the OGHS offering continues the tradition it has maintained throughout its history—standing with our partners in the face of suffering, walking with them toward a more hopeful future, and witnessing to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Again this year during Lent, your we are conducting this important program of sharing. Please use one of the special OGHS envelopes from the pews or the yellow envelope found in your envelope box.

Mission Descriptions

We have developed a two-page description summary of the missions that are supported by Greenwood through the Mission Committee. They are available on the table in the narthex. Please pick one up for family viewing. You are encouraged to consider our supported missions in your daily prayers.



Mission Literature Rack

The Mission Committee now has a literature rack in Fellowship Hall next to the Mission Bulletin Board. In this rack is literature the committee receives from our supported missions. Please help yourself to this information and share it with family members so that together you can become more familiar with the work of the missions we support. And keep our missions in your prayers. This literature can help your family direct your prayers to specific needs of missions that are communicated to us through their literature.

Mission Yearbook

Thanks to everyone who purchased the 2008 Mission Yearbook. All that we had were purchased.

Letters from Supported Missionaries

Walter & LouAnne Copeland, TEAM/Kobe, Japan: *We look forward to visiting there, probably sometime in the fall when your leaves are nice and golden! We look forward to getting the church's new e-mail address. Thanks for praying about the flyers being distributed. One Korean lady has attended because of them. Her parents, visiting from Korea, are trying to help her find a church. They have attended for two Sundays. Results from flyers are usually low, but many people in the area are being reminded that we are here. Greetings and love to everyone there. Praising Jesus.*

Kiersten Hutchinson, TEAM/Zimbabwe: *This year has been very challenging, yet God continues to be faithful and is teaching me new levels of trust. The situation in the country continues to decline with more power outages, less water, food shortages, unreliable transportation and difficulty getting cash. This is fairly often the norm. Thankfully there has not been danger, though with elections upcoming sometime this spring it is still a possibility. What a relief that we are nestled under His wings and guarded by an angelic host.*

Let me share with you some of the answers to your prayers. As of November, we have a national, Christian, husband and wife doctor team. We had enough new graduates who wanted to stay at Karanda to replace the others who have left us. For the first time ever we were able to take our senior staff on a shopping trip to RSA (South Africa). A growing group of national and missionary staff are doing another enlightening "Beth Moore" Bible study. The rains have been heavy – perhaps some sunshine might be helpful now. As I review my last newsletter, this proves that God has answered all our prayers!!! Thank you for your diligent intercession – it works!!

As we reflect on the coming of Christ, we may remember that there had been a 'famine for the hearing of the Word of God' for almost 400 years until the 'fullness of time' which brought the incarnate Word of God to live among us. Here in Zim. we are suffering a 'famine' on many fronts. As circumstances become more critical people are seeking false prophets, ancestor worship, and corruption in order to stay ahead or even alive. The Shona people are unwaveringly optimistic and trust in an upcoming 'fullness' if only they will persevere. Though political and economic changes may improve outward circumstances in the country, it is more important that this time of 'famine' be used to draw people to Christ who is the only true 'fullness'.

The Mission Committee
Henry Ruppenthal, Chair; Myrle Dean, Jane Geary, Debra Stacey

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



March will see changes in two scheduled meeting dates. FIRST is the **Spring Gathering** being changed from March 4 to **April 1**. Tickets will be available at March Circle Meetings and in the church office. Ruthann Sission will be presenting a program on *Spring Flowers*. This will really give us a chance to *think spring!*

The second change will be for the Coordinating Team. Our scheduled meeting (March 18) is being changed to the following Tuesday, March 25. The women of Woodbury Union (our sister Presbyterian church in Warwick) have invited all of us to their spring gathering at 6 p.m. on March 18. This is a soup and salad supper so I need to have a count by Friday, March 14. Let your circle leader know at the March circle meeting if you would like to attend. Any woman who is not in a circle, but would like to attend, can call me (737-0717). Parking is limited so we will carpool from our parking lot – leaving for Woodbury at 5:45 p.m.

The Gifts of the Heart Program is in full swing. We thank everyone who is helping us with this annual effort. **Please note: We are no longer collecting toothpaste, nail files or lined notebooks.**

I want to welcome the new members who will be joining Greenwood on Palm Sunday. I invite all of the women in this group to become a part of our loving organization. I know you will feel welcome if you give us a try! My invitation is to you is: *“Come as a guest, and leave as a friend!”*

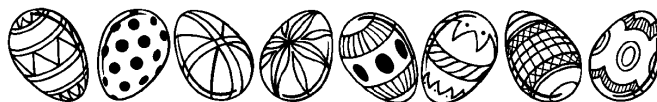
Holy week is fast approaching. I hope you all can participate in the various worship opportunities planned at Greenwood. And I wish everyone a very **Happy Easter!**

From “Life’s Little Instructions from the Bible”
for Easter Sunday, March 23rd:

**Learn to be comfortable with problems;
That’s where personal growth and opportunities lie.**

*“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”*
James 1:2-3 NKJV

Betty Stacey
for Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE NEWS for MARCH

Easter and Spring are just around the corner, so lots will be happening. Please check our schedule below for Circle details. Visitors are always welcome.

Circle I – will meet Tuesday, March 25,
at 1:00 PM in the parlor for a Bible
study on “Ruth”. All are welcome.

Circle III - will meet at 7:00 PM on
Tuesday, March 11, at Ardena
Fairbairn’s. Kitty Channell will share
some of her travel experiences.

Circle IV - will meet on Tuesday, March
11, at 7:00 PM in the church parlor and
will have a penny social.

Circle V - will meet on Wednesday,
March 5, at church at 9:15 AM to
prepare an “American Chop Suey”
lunch for the MS Key Club.

Circle VII – will meet on Tuesday,
March 11, at 7:00 PM at Lynda Baker’s.

As Betty Stacey reminded us in her article, please be aware that our **Spring Brunch** has been moved to **April 1st** – don’t miss out. More information will be available at your March Circle Meeting.

Many thanks to Angie D’Albora for taking care of our Circle Bulletin Board (at the bottom of the stairs going up to the office). It is always festive and “up-to-the-minute”.

Happy Easter to all!

Karen Baxter
Circle Coordinator

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR BULLETIN

Calling all crafters!

The countdown to Greenwood's 2008 Bazaar has begun. It's time to begin to work on that special craft you will donate this year—remember, this is PW's major fundraiser that earns the money we then use to support causes such as feeding the hungry, protecting the world's children from malaria, providing housing for the homeless, and spreading The Word.



If you knit, paint, sew, or craft in other ways, we need you now! Here at Greenwood we enjoy the reputation of putting on a wonderful bazaar that includes many unique and beautifully completed items; so, whether you can make one or a dozen, we look forward to and appreciate your contribution.

Non-crafters, stay tuned for the many other ways you, too, can take part in another successful Christmas bazaar.

BOXTOPS & UPC SYMBOLS FOR EDUCATION

We have received a letter from the Plateau Home School in Lancing, Tennessee thanking us for our cooperation in making the transition from Campbell labels to the Campbell UPC symbols and for our continued collecting of Box Tops for Education.

The school's current projects are:

1. "Books on Wheels" – Gathering books and other resources to stock their donated school bus for children living in the west end of the county to have access to during the summer months.
2. "Home School Co-op" – The center will be able to provide library access and other educational resources. Also, they will organize field trips for families.
3. Library Extension – A future goal of the Learning Center is to extend library resources to include books, movies, etc. which address issues in parenting and other areas of concern to families in the county.



Thank you for saving Campbell UPC symbols and Box Tops for Education for these worthwhile projects. The UPC symbols and Box Tops for Education will be mailed to the Plateau Home School in May 2008.

Marge Platt
for Presbyterian Women

39er's MARCH GATHERING

Timmy's One Bay Avenue

In Oakland Beach

Wednesday, **March 19** - 11:30 AM

Menu

*Corned Beef & Cabbage or Baked Scrod
Salad, Coffee or Tea and Dessert*

Cost: \$12.00



Program in Fellowship Hall

Come join us for a **Pound Auction!**
Bring a pound of "anything?" to be auctioned off!

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



MIKE-ee's MUSINGS:

Economics: With fuel prices rocketing out of sight a recent detailed research in conservation was conducted which covered industrial, commercial, institutional and residential establishments . . . It suggested that fuel savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars could be realized by a simple procedure . . . "flip it". It boiled down to "getting rich by flipping the switch". It suggests that if you leave a room for more than 3 or 4 minutes, "flip it" . . . the light switch.

So why don't we give it a shot here at Greenwood, and let our Stewardship Committee tell us what we have saved during the year. When you leave a classroom, restroom, office, hallway, fellowship hall . . . or wherever . . . "flip it" . . . it's an offer to our coffer. It doesn't cost anything to turn it on or off. If someone else forgets to do it, you pursue it.

Religion: A Sunday School Class was being quizzed on the story of the prodigal son. The teacher asked one child, "Who was sorry when the prodigal son returned home?" The boy gave it some thought, then said, "The fatted calf."

Adult Education: A father and son went fishing one day. After a couple of hours out in the boat, the boy suddenly began asking questions about their surroundings. "How does this boat float?" he asked his father. His father thought for a moment then replied, "I don't rightly know, son." The boy returned to his contemplation, then looked again at his father. "How do fish breathe under water?" Once again the father replied, "Don't rightly know, son." Next, the boy asked, "Why is the sky blue, Dad?" Again the father replied, "Don't rightly know, son." Worried he would annoy his father, the boy said, "Dad, do you mind my asking you all of these questions?" "Of course not, son. If you don't ask questions, you'll never learn anything."

Parting Shot: A pessimist's blood type is always "B negative".

Thanks for Listenin'
Mike-ee



"Gift of the Heart" Kits

The Presbyterian Women continue to collect items to assemble School Kits and Health Kits for distribution by Church World Service throughout the world. You have generously supported this program in the past years and we invite you to take part in this worthwhile endeavor through March.

For those of you who wish to contribute to this Christian ministry, please follow the recommendations on the following list:

<u>School Kit</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Health Kit</u>
• 1 pair blunt scissors	---A,B,C---	• 1 hand towel
• 1 30 centimeter ruler (12")	---D,E,F---	• 1 wash cloth
• 1 pencil sharpener	---G,H,I---	• 1 comb
• 6 new pencils with erasers	---J,K,L---	• 1 metal nail clipper
• 1 large eraser	---M,N,O---	• 1 bar of soap (bath size)
• 1 box of 24 crayons	---P,Q,R---	• 1 toothbrush
	---S,T,V---	
	---W,Y,Z---	

The items you choose can be placed in the cartons provided on the stage in Fellowship Hall.

If you prefer to make a monetary contribution, it can be placed in an envelope you will find in the pews marked School Kits/Health Kits. The PW will then purchase items for the Kits or use these funds for processing and shipping expenses.

Thank you for Caring!

Angie D'Albora
for Presbyterian Women

~~ CAUGHT IN THE NET ~~

HOSPITALIZED since the last issue:

Bill Stock

Eleanor Kuzman



WEDDING WISHES to:

Cheryl McNeely and James Ruegg who were married at Greenwood on February 23.

- - - ~ NOTES RECEIVED ~ - - - ~ -

Dear Greenwood Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for the cards and prayers while I was having my recent surgery.

I also want to thank Timoli and Kaitlyn Richardson for their visit and for bringing me the beautiful flowers from the Ash Wednesday service.

I am very thankful that I am doing so well.

Thanks again, Linda Gungle

Dear Rev. Stephen Clark,

Shalom and blessings to you.

Just a note to let you know what a great blessing it was for me to come see you again and to share with you the Hanukkah message.

Thank you so much for having me come, for the warm welcome, for your prayers and for the kind support of our ministry with Jews for Jesus. It means much to us.

May the Lord richly bless you and your service to Him.

In Him, Oded & Bimini Cohen

Dear Friends,

My sincere thanks to Peggy Phillips for her delightful Valentine's Day visit bringing me her delicious home-baked blueberry muffins, a Valentine heart and cute dish filled with chocolate kisses. Her visits always brighten my days.

In Christian love, Gladys Bracker



There's More!



On the first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. They didn't know there was more – a resurrected Lord. Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about this miracle, they didn't yet know there was more – a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make their joy

complete. Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine there was more – the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

As great as Easter is, it's only the "first fruits" of what lies ahead. Celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, but remember that the best is yet to come!

