



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

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

NOVEMBER 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

A few Thanksgivings ago I received from a dear friend of 30+ years a list of things she and her husband were grateful they had learned. I kept that list and added a few; I share excerpts from our combined list below.



I'm thankful I've learned you cannot make someone love you. All you can do is be someone who can be loved. The rest is up to them.

I'm thankful I've learned that it takes years to build up trust, and only seconds to destroy it.

I'm thankful I've learned it's not what you have in your life but who you have in your life that counts.

I'm thankful I've learned you can get by on charm for about fifteen minutes. After that, you'd better know something.

I'm thankful I've learned you can do something in an instant that will make your heart ache for life.

I'm thankful I've learned it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

I'm thankful I've learned you should always leave loved ones with loving words. You never know when it may be the last time you see them.

I'm thankful I've learned you can keep going long after you can't.

I'm thankful I've learned we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

I'm thankful I've learned that either you control your attitude or it controls you.

I'm thankful I've learned heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I'm thankful I've learned that sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down will be the ones to help you get back up.

I'm thankful I've learned true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance.

I'm thankful I've learned maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had, and what you've learned from them, and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

I'm thankful I've learned you should never tell a child their dreams are unlikely or outlandish. Few things are more humiliating, and what a tragedy it would be if they believed it.

I'm thankful I've learned no matter how good a friend is, they are still human and are going to hurt you every once in a while, and you must forgive them for that.

I'm thankful I've learned that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

I'm thankful I've learned that just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other. And just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do.

I'm thankful I've learned we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.

I'm thankful I've learned two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different.

I'm thankful I've learned that credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

I'm thankful I've learned that though the people you care about most in life may be taken from you too soon, they will be seen again.

I'm thankful I've learned that it's hard to determine where to draw the line between not hurting people's feelings and standing up for what you believe.

I'm thankful I've learned even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength and resources to help.

I'm thankful I've learned the discipline of gratitude is the greatest path to joy, and that the laziness of negativity is a downward, depressive spiral of destruction.

I'm thankful I've learned to see the truly miraculous gifts of God which permeate the everyday routine of my life, and to unwrap His many gifts that too often lie unopened at my feet.



And I would also like to add that I'm grateful to God for the gift of **Dr. David Burge**, who freely contributed his considerable time, experience and talent in service of the church by filling the organ console these past two months while we completed our search for an organist/choir director, and for **Evon Banning**, who freely contributed her considerable time, experience and talent in service of the church by directing the choir throughout. Both are highly accomplished musicians with long and impressive academic/professional resumes.

We prayed to God for help during this time of transition, and He readily supplied not just one, but two superbly qualified professionals who willingly and graciously stepped forward to help their church during this time of need. Thank you, David and Evon, for your kindness and selfless generosity!

Stephen L. Clark, Pastor

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education Sunday was held on October 14. Congratulations to the following students who were presented with a Bible:



*Gregory Harrop
Matthew Nazareth
Alexandra Petrucci*

*Cassidy Price
Kate Snyman*

Also on Christian Education Sunday, our 2007-08 Sunday School staff members received their commissions. Our Sunday School program has gifted and dedicated teachers. Greenwood Community Church is indeed blessed to have such wonderful volunteers. Please take time to thank them as they serve God in teaching our children.

Toddler/Nursery

*Marina Flannery
Antoinette Snyman
Sherry Phillips*

Pre-K/Kindergarten

*Cheryl Donilon
Nancy Hurd
Timoli Richardson
Wendy Seufert*

Grades 1&2

*Cheryl Casinelli
Angie D'Albora
Marcella Mahoney*

Grades 3&4

*Jay David
Joann Rudolph
Karen Williams*

Grades 5&6

*Barry Baxter
Mary Farnsworth
Amy Monahan*

Junior High

*Lisa David
Nancy Soave*

Senior High

*Brian Flannery
Rob Petrucci*

Sunday School Superintendent

Wendy Petrucci

Assistant Superintendent

Lisa David

Also appreciated are our Presbyterian Youth Fellowship (PYF) Leaders:

*Matthew Barber
Andrew Donnelly
Brian Flannery*

*Emmy Kmet
Steve Nazareth
Timoli Richardson*

Thank you to all our volunteers! Many are substitutes, some help with Child Care and Children's Church. We appreciate each volunteer!

CALLING FAMILIES AND FOOTBALL FANS!

On Saturday, November 24 (Thanksgiving Weekend), Greenwood Church will be hosting a Family Movie Night! We will be showing *Facing the Giants*. This movie is appropriate for any age, guys and girls alike (although youngsters below age 9 or 10 may not appreciate it, because it is a football movie - with some romance and lots of humor thrown in).

Sports Illustrated ranked *Facing the Giants* in the top ten sports movies of 2006. -- The DVD is now shown internationally to churches, schools and prisons and is available at your local neighborhood WalMart - but don't run out and buy it - our church owns it! The David family thinks it is one of the best movies made of late (and the girls far outweigh the boys in our house!). Sooo....come on down. The doors will open at 6:30 and the movie will begin at 7:00. We will have popcorn, punch and coffee.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall and make it a family affair!

Sponsored by the Christian Ed. Committee

Calling all kids preschool through grade 6!

..... **It's Christmas Pageant time!!**

Our annual Christmas Pageant and Family Pasta Supper will be Sunday, December 9, beginning at 4:00 PM, so save the date. All kids are invited to participate -- no experience required! Our three pageant practices will be held:



- right after church on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 25 at 11:30
- the following Sunday, December 2 at 11:30
- at 2:45 PM on the 9th right before the pageant

There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall beginning in November for both the pageant and the pasta supper. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, here is a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to focus on the true meaning of the season.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Angel Tree 2007

Beginning Sunday, November 18 through December 2, the Angels will be decorating the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall awaiting your selection to provide one of the children represented by the Angels with gifts for Christmas. Selection of an Angel from the tree demonstrates Jesus' love to people who are often forgotten, destitute, or shunned. The Mission Committee is looking forward to another successful Angel Tree program with your usual help in adopting a prisoner's child for Christmas.

Other events on the Angel Tree Calendar are:

Sunday, December 9: Deadline for purchase of gifts and placing them under the tree by 10:30 AM
Sunday, December 9: Wrapping Day (after 10:30 Worship Service)
Saturday, December 15: Gift Distribution Event (1:00 to 3:00 PM)
Sunday, December 16: Delivery of remaining gifts

The Mission Committee wishes to thank everyone who volunteered to assist in the verification phase of the program as well as participation in the other aspects of this year's Angel Tree program at Greenwood.

Chaplain at Forman Christian College (Lahore, Pakistan)

Forman Christian College (FCC) was under government control for over 31 years and is now back in the hands of a Christian board and principal. Efforts are being made to rebuild the school campus and revitalize its academic standards. Dr. Robert Johnson, PC(USA) mission co-worker, serves as the Dean of the Chapel and a mentor to Babar Rana Iqbal, the appointed Chaplain.

The mission of the college is to prepare students for ethical and responsible leadership in Pakistan and the wider world. One of the goals of the college is to seize the opportunity to model what a Christian College should be in an Islamic Republic. Having the full-time chaplain is a key part in reaching this goal.

Bethany Christian Services

November is Adoption month. Look for the bulletin insert on the second Sunday in November with more information about Bethany's worldwide adoption services.

Jennifer Barry - InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at UNH

Jen reports that so far this year, "We have seen many students interested in learning more about God and investigating what faith really means. InterVarsity's mission statement is 'To Advance the Kingdom of God through Whole-Life Conversion to Jesus.' Ben, my co-staff-worker, and I desire to implement this statement into the lives of the student leaders, asking them to reach out to those who don't know Christ. The student leaders are beginning to understand that this statement goes beyond the walls of InterVarsity and that it is the mission of Christ for UNH. It is really encouraging for me to, on a weekly basis, see and hear stories of how different members have had conversations with friends that have sparked a curiosity about God. Please include in your prayers all of the student leaders, specifically the Executive team and the small group leaders that they would continue to make IV's vision their own and to lean on God's power as they lead others to Christ."

World Missions



Jews for Jesus

A reminder that Jews for Jesus representative, Oded Cohen, will be with us on Sunday, January 6. The program will be a discussion of Hanukkah during the Adult Sunday School and a Minute for Mission at the Worship Services that morning. Add this interesting mission program to your calendar for January 6.

The Mission Committee:
Henry Ruppenthal, Chair; Jane Geary, Vice-Chair
Myrle Dean, Debra Stacey, Carol Snyder

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

*“But just as you excel in everything --
in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --
see that you also excel in this grace of giving.
2 Corinthians 8:7*

Malachi spoke to us of the importance of giving fully to God; in return He will pour down blessings on us. We see a similar theme in Corinthians when Paul speaks of the generosity of the churches in Macedonia and what we can learn from their example. Yes, we all want to grow in our faith, our understanding and our sincere love of God. Paul, however, cautions us not to forget the importance of gracious giving, of generous giving, as a way of demonstrating our commitment to God.



How are we doing in fulfilling the financial obligations we made to Greenwood Church this year? Through September we're over \$7,000 behind in meeting these commitments. We know that is not a true reflection of who we are -- our generous spirit.

Does modern technology have something to offer? Many of us now pay bills on-line or establish automatic payments to ensure we're current with our mortgages or car loans. Have you thought about setting up your weekly pledge as an automatic payment? We certainly recognize not everyone is comfortable with the process, but several members of the congregation are using this new convenience and it might be right for you. If you're interested, please see a member of the Committee: Melinda DeCioppio, Barry Baxter, Elaine Magyar, Jack Crankshaw or Greg Blasdel.

The Stewardship Committee

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

After three months of joy and frustration, reading and rereading resumes, interviewing candidates and hearing them play – we have made our choice for our new Organist and Choir Director. We are pleased to announce that we have hired Kathy Hart. David Burge has graciously offered to continue playing the organ, and Evon Banning will continue to direct the choir through the end of October. We are grateful for their willingness to help us during this time of transition. We are delighted to have Nancy Merritt back in the organ console on November 4 and will welcome Kathy on her first Sunday, November 11!



Kathy Hart is a fifth generation Presbyterian who came to Rhode Island from Texas in November of 2006 to be near her family, including a new granddaughter. She has recently retired and says she loves being able to concentrate on her music and her granddaughter.

Kathy is not only accomplished on the organ and piano, but is experienced in directing chimes, hand bells and choral choirs. During our conversation with Kathy, I was impressed with her dedication to her profession. To put on my PW Moderator's hat for a moment – this year PW chose as its' theme *“Hearing God's Call”*, based on our national PW Bible study. We usually think of “a call” as connected with a pastor:

When did you know you had a call? OR We hear that your church has called a new pastor.

We all have a call and just need to listen for it. Now – back to Kathy Hart. This is what I heard loud and clear as she described how she wants music to not only complement the pastor's message, but to be a musical praise and prayer to God! Obviously, Kathy has heard her call.

Early on in our search a member of the church asked me what kind of person we would be looking for. I thought a moment and answered that we would be looking for a “good fit” for Greenwood Church. The Personnel Committee is confident that we have found that “good fit”.

I know all of you will be as anxious as the Personnel Committee is to welcome Kathy as the newest member of our staff and also as a member of the Greenwood Church family.

Betty Stacey, Chair; Jerianne Berman, Vice Chair
Personnel Committee Members: Chris Hurd, Seth Paradise, Ron Snyder
Representing the Worship Committee: Don Sorgel
Additional Search Committee Members: Myrle Dean and Nancy Dickerman

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As most of you know, the seven standing Session committees in our church are Stewardship, Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education, Mission, Worship, Personnel and Membership. I served previously on the Membership Committee for five years, took a breather by going to the Worship Committee a few years, and now I'm back at Membership.

Originally formed by combining two former committees, Member Care and Evangelism, the committee (among other duties) welcomes those seeking membership, looks for ways to encourage attendance and promote fellowship, and in general tries to make people feel like they belong to a family, because that's what we are called to be – a Church Family.



When you're a member of a biological family, you benefit from all aspects of belonging to that family: a clean house, cooked meals, a kept yard, clean laundry, a warm sense of belonging, to name a few. In a typical home, those things don't happen by themselves; all in the family need to do their part, however small or large, to pitch in. It's the same with our church family.

There's much that goes on visibly and not-so-visibly each and every Sunday to make our "family gatherings" work. Let's look at a typical first Sunday of the month: A minimum of twenty volunteers are working behind the scenes in the Sunday School classrooms, nursery care, and children's church, as each require a minimum of two trained people as per our Child Protection policy. The worship services, Adult Education and coffee hour involve another 40-45 (!) volunteers: greeters, ushers, choir members, soloist (8:00), lectors, acolytes, Adult Ed leader(s), coffee hour hosts/hostesses, communion servers and those who prepare the accoutrements for, and clean up after, the sacrament. Are we accomplishing all this each week? You bet! Week after week, between sixty and seventy selfless people find a way (*and some of those find many ways!*) to honorably fulfill their solemn membership promise to support the ministry of our church with their time and talent.

There are some weeks, however, when it's a challenge to fill the necessary spots, and some end up wearing too many hats. I want to encourage all of you to consider how you may help; the saying "**many hands make light work**" certainly applies here! There are enough opportunities for *each and every* member of the congregation to find some way to help, however small or large it might be. Friends, we know you're busy. We're ALL busy! But our church needs us. Please find it in your heart to say "YES, Lord, how can I help?" ... and find a place to "plug in." I promise you won't be sorry. When I look out at this congregation and see blessed parents of young children, blessed parents of older children (yes, teenagers, too), blessed members with no children, blessed children of older parents and just blessed members of all ages in general, I feel so richly blessed to be part of this church, and I for one enjoy being able to play a part in making this all "work!" And I'm confident you will feel fulfilled by taking part, as well.

"Lord, grant this congregation the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Al Williams, Chair

PLEASE NOTE: We are having our meeting one week late, because the third Wednesday is the day before Thanksgiving.

39er's NOVEMBER GATHERING

Timmy's One Bay Avenue

In Oakland Beach

Wednesday, **November 28** - 11:30 AM

The cost this year is **\$12.00**.

Menu

*Lamb or Stuffed Chicken Breast
Soup * Coffee or Tea * Dessert*

Program in Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Nancy Brown Garcia,
a Warwick resident and a member of the Narragansett tribe

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



NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

I want to thank everyone for their delicious dishes for the potluck on October 2. It was a wonderful evening and so nice to see Marilyn Lariviere again. We received many nice comments on her presentation.

Eight members of Greenwood PW attended the PW in Presbytery meeting at the Providence Presbyterian Church on October 20. It's always good to spend time with other women in the Presbytery.

I can't believe that I am already reminding members to purchase tickets for the Christmas Dinner on December 4. Tickets will be available at November circle meetings and through the church office.

I am grateful to all who helped with the PW Minute for Mission on October 28 -- to Jean Martin for writing it, and to the members who took pictures for our memory board. I hope that this glimpse into the "less visible" side of PW will encourage other women in Greenwood Church to join this wonderful group of Christian women.

I know that it seems like a long way ahead, but we have only one more issue of the FN this year and I want to let you know that the PWPWNE Winter Retreat is scheduled for Feb. 1 & 2 at the Immaculate Conception Convent in Putnam, CT. Reservations do not need to go in until January, but start thinking about attending. It is a wonderful two days. The retreat leader will be the Rev. Anne Marie Meyerhoffer, Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church in Milford, CT.

Attention members of the Coordinating Team: Because the scheduled date for the next CT meeting comes right before Thanksgiving (November 20) we have decided to move it forward this month and hold it on Tuesday, November 6. Please mark your calendar accordingly.

I hope each of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving. We all have so much to be thankful for. For those of you who are traveling (including me), have a great time and come back safe and rested.

From Church Signs for November 22nd:

***Thanksgiving is good, but
Thanksgiving is better.***

Betty Stacey
For Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE NEWS FOR NOVEMBER

The 2007-08 **CIRCLE** program is off to a great start and there is much to look forward to in the coming months. As usual, the welcome mat is out and November would be a great time to visit a circle:

CIRCLE I—the Bible Study Circle will meet in the Parlor on Tuesday, November 27 at 1:00 PM. The lesson is from Jonah 3 "Once More, with Feeling?". All are welcome.

CIRCLE III—will meet at the church on Tuesday, November 13 at 7 PM. They will work on items for the Mini Bazaar.

CIRCLE IV—will meet in the Church parlor at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 13. They will be working on angel ornaments for the Mini Bazaar.

CIRCLE V—will meet at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, November 7 to host the M.S. Key Club, and to make favors for the PW Christmas Dinner.

CIRCLE VII—will meet at the home of Lynda Baker at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 13. They will be making candy trees for the Mini-Bazaar.

There will be a sign-up at the November Circles for circle projects and a sign-up to list your individual creations to be made for the Mini Bazaar (we are hoping for a variety, as we know there are many talents).

We thank our church family for all the help with "Blanket Sunday"; contributions have exceeded \$1,000 as of this writing.

Wishing everyone a month of blessings!

Karen Baxter, Circle Coordinator



HOSPITALIZED since the last issue:

Peter McKnight

SYMPATHY is extended to:

The family of Elizabeth T. Hill who passed away on Saturday, September 29 in Pennsylvania. Betty Hill was a charter member of Greenwood.

WEDDING WISHES:

Best wishes to Ian and Victoria Fairbairn who were married on Saturday, October 20 in Pennsylvania. We wish them God's richest blessing!



November Birthdays

- Lynda Baker*
- Christian Black*
- Gladys Bracker*
- Trey Budlong-Springer*
- Margaret Cady*
- Corey Carpenter*
- Gavin Carson*
- Logan Carson*
- Lynn Chenel*
- Dick Collins*
- Ed Dailey*
- Dave Damm*
- Elizabeth Damm*
- Margie Davis*
- John Daylor*
- Jim Degnan*
- Caitlin Donnelly*
- Bruce Gillard*
- Cameron Gillard*
- Nick Hallock*
- Doreen Harrop*
- John Jodoin*
- Betty Mason*
- Emily McLaughlin*
- Gail Merrill*
- Amy Monahan*
- Kathy Morin*
- Chris Nazareth*
- Stephanie Nelson*
- Harold Nichols*
- Madison Nolan*
- Linda Overton*
- Matt Parkinson*
- Harry Prince*
- Sean Quigley*
- Henry Ruppenthal*
- Ashley Schwegler*
- Taylor Spinard*
- Bill Stock*
- Chris Sullivan*
- Karen Williams*

□ □ **NOTES RECEIVED** □ □

*Dear Friends of Greenwood Church,
Bernie and I would like to thank you for the flowers, cards and prayers for his sister Genevieve's passing. It means so much to be remembered.
Sincerely, Louise & Bernie Ferrante*

*Dear Friends,
I would like to thank the Deacon who delivered the chancel flowers. They are beautiful and I am enjoying them. Thank you.
In Christian love, Ruth Gorton*

*To all my dear friends,
Thanks so much for the many, many cards. They really made my days at South County Rehab. Also, thanks for the church flowers and the visit from Pastor Clark.
In Christian love, Esther Jackson*



Saturday, November 3!

DEADLINE for **December/January FISHERMEN'S NEWS** is **November 11th**.
Please leave articles in the church office or
e-mail to: Karen52542@AOL.com (please include Fishermen's News in the Subject line.)