



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

The Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian

805 Main Avenue; Warwick, Rhode Island

www.gccp.org

MARCH 2009

Dear Members and Friends,



Just about a year ago my father sent me a book of sermons authored by Dr. Frank Nauman, a now-retired pastor who had served over fifty years in Presbyterian churches (*and who, I later discovered, was a seminary classmate of Dr. Tyler Johnson!*). Dr. Nauman grew up in a home right across the street from my father's family. I'd like to share a brief excerpt found near the end of his book:

"In the Bible, there is Peter, the disciple of Jesus. He is so full of the love and likeness and healing power of Jesus, that people put themselves in his path so that his shadow might fall on them. Harold and Gertrude Clark were disciples like that. The shadow of their love and family stretched across the road from their home to touch ours and made it better in ways they never knew. It follows me in the shadow of that cherry tree I often climbed with their sons, Jerry and Alan, in their back yard. There is the shadow of the youth who taught us restless ten-year olds in Sunday School – and it was the shadow of that young man's work for Jesus, 70 years ago, still following after him and falling on me. **What kind of shadows do we cast about us?** Let my shadow always be as the shadow of Jesus, and every memory of me a blessing where I have passed. Let that be your prayer and purpose, too. Amen" (*emphasis added*)

Harold and Gertrude Clark were my grandparents; Jerry is the uncle I said goodbye to in August 2006. Alan, of course, is my father. The following verse was read at my grandfather's funeral in 1987, at my uncle's funeral in 2006, and recently Dad read this at a funeral eulogizing one of his good friends. I'm told this verse was a favorite of my grandfather's. He was one of the founding elders of the Manoa Presbyterian Church near Haverford, PA, and an active member of that congregation until his transfer to the Church Triumphant. This was framed and posted in a place he was able to see it each day:

Is there anyone happier
Because you passed his way today?
Does anyone remember
That you spoke to him today?
The day is almost over
And the working hours are few
Is there anyone to utter
Now a timely word for you?
Can you say tonight in parting
With the day which is fading fast
That you helped a single being
Of the many you have passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing
Over what you did or said?
Is the man whose hopes were fading
Now with courage going ahead?
Did you win the day or lose it?
Was it well or poorly spent?
Did you leave a path of kindness,
Or a trail of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber
Do you think that God will say,
"You have earned a new tomorrow
For the work you've done today?"

In a nutshell, this encapsulated my grandfather's sense of "call." From what I am told, from what I remember, and from what Dr. Nauman affirmed, Grandpop believed with all his heart God had him in this world to do something good for someone each day in the name of Jesus. And as a result, he cast a tall, multigenerational shadow of faithfulness which left an indelible mark on many.

This Lenten season, as we once again focus our thoughts and hearts on our Lord's journey in the shadow of the Cross, it is good for us to consider what kind of redemptive shadow we may be casting each day on all whose lives we touch. "*Let my shadow always be as the shadow of Jesus, and every memory of me a blessing where I have passed. Let that be your prayer and purpose, too.*"

Stephen L. Clark, Pastor

NEWS FLASH!

Ensign Ben Desmond given Meritorious Service Award!

I learned just before writing this page that Ben Desmond received well-deserved recognition for exemplary performance of duty in the rescue of a disabled guided missile cruiser grounded off the coast of Oahu February 8. Excerpts from the citation:

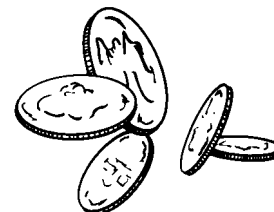
"While serving as a member of the rescue and assistance team from USS Lake Erie, Ensign Desmond performed duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. His tireless resolve, proactive leadership, and professional abilities directly contributed to the high visibility rescue of a disabled guided missile cruiser grounded off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii. After 22 hours of dedicated work efforts, he led the sea detail to moor the damaged ship safely pier side. Ensign Desmond's extraordinary professionalism, steadfast initiative, unrelenting perseverance, and loyal devotion to duty reflected credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

CONGRATULATIONS, BEN!

NEWS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

HEIFER COIN DRIVE: Our Sunday School children will once again be collecting coins during the Sundays in Lent to benefit Heifer Project International. Please bring your coins as scheduled below; plastic bags will be provided in the pews for your convenience. During the 10:45 worship service you will have an opportunity to pass your coins to children in your pew; the children will then bring the coins forward for collection. There will also be a collection box in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, March 1:	Please bring your pennies!
Sunday, March 8:	Please bring your nickels!
Sunday, March 15:	Please bring your dimes!
Sunday, March 22:	Please bring your quarters!
Sunday, March 29:	Please bring your dollars!



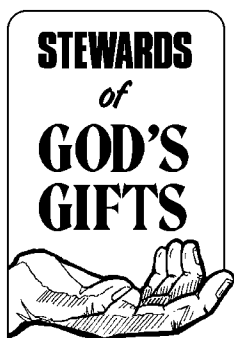
***A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HEIFER PROJECT:** A Midwestern farmer named Dan West was ladling out rations of milk to hungry children during the Spanish Civil War when the thought occurred to him, "These children don't need a cup, they need a cow." West, who was serving as a Church of the Brethren relief worker, was forced to decide who would receive the limited rations and who wouldn't – literally, who would live and who would die. This kind of aid, he knew, would never be enough. So West returned home to form Heifers for Relief, dedicated to ending hunger permanently by providing families with livestock and training so that they "could be spared the indignity of depending on others to feed their children." In 1944, the first shipment of 17 heifers left York, Pennsylvania, for Puerto Rico, going to families whose malnourished children had never even tasted milk.*

Why heifers? These are young cows that haven't yet given birth – making them perfect not only for supplying a continued source of milk, but also for supplying a continued source of support. That's because each family receiving a heifer agrees to "pass on the gift" and donate the female offspring to another family, so that the gift of food is never-ending. This simple idea of giving families a source of food rather than short-term relief caught on and has continued for over 60 years. Since 1944, Heifer has helped 8.5 million people in more than 125 countries.

Wendy Petrucci, Sunday School Superintendent

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

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



The Session has approved a new operating budget for 2009 that does not include the use of any funds from the income or principal of the Memorial and Endowment Fund. After much deliberation including a special Session meeting the Session reduced planned expenditures in the original 2009 Budget by approximately \$20,000. All areas of the budget were reduced except Staff. The decision was made to hold Staff expenses at 2008 year end levels. The Choir Director/Organist salary was increased October first when she took on additional responsibilities, resulting in annualized costs that are greater in 2009. The additional reductions are in Christian Education \$3,700 which will be partially offset by the use of special gifts, Deacons \$4,000 which will be offset by the use of Deacons carryover funds from 2008, Mission \$7,900 which will be partially offset by the use of special gifts, and all other areas \$3,900 which will be achieved by drawing down existing levels of supplies and materials and finding lower cost ways of running our programs and activities.

More importantly, the Lord is responding to our prayers and the Holy Spirit is moving amongst us to do His will. Since the Annual Meeting members of the congregation have completed the fulfillment of their 2008 pledges, completed the fulfillment of their 2009 pledges, increased their 2009 pledges and made new pledges for 2009 increasing our income for 2009 by approximately \$18,000.

Copies of the new budget are available at several locations throughout the church.

In the coming weeks meetings will be scheduled to answer questions and receive input.

The decision to scale back funding for planned activities and programs for 2009 was a difficult one.

As giving permits funding will be restored.

In order for us to stay within this new budget it is important that we all fulfill our financial commitments to the church in a timely manner.

The church has 228 giving units and if each of us increases our planned giving by an additional two dollars a week, we can restore church activities and programs to 2008 levels.

**"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

MISSION COMMITTEE

InterVarsity Graduate and Faculty Ministries

Kathy Cooper with InterVarsity's Graduate & Faculty Ministries at Brown University was the Mission Committee's guest speaker on January 22. Ms. Cooper told us that the faculty and graduate ministry began some twenty years ago. The ministry has four commitments they share in the power of the spirit: Spiritual Formation, Community, Evangelism and Service, Integration of Faith, Learning, and Practice.



Ms. Cooper also explained the professional ministry that includes **Christian mentoring to faculty and professional students**. "InterVarsity's Faculty Ministry is called to identify, encourage, and equip Christian faculty who will be a redeeming influence within higher education as they establish witnessing communities of Christian academics that reflect the diversity of the body of Christ; follow God's call in spiritual formation and vocational discipleship; balance excellence in life, research, teaching, mentoring, and service, for the glory of God; and practice their disciplines from a profoundly Christian viewpoint."

As a professional, if you are interested in Christian mentoring to a faculty member in your profession at Brown University, please see a member of the Mission Committee.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Once again this year, the Mission Committee is asking YOU to support the One Great Hour of Sharing Program. This offering, collected during Lent, will be dedicated on Palm Sunday. What is the One Great Hour of Sharing Program...how did it start...why is it important for us to support this offering? Read on to find out!!

How different the world looks now from when One Great Hour of Sharing began, yet how similar the face of human need! In 1949 leaders from several denominations organized an appeal to support the campaigns of Protestant churches for relief and reconstruction. Would it be thinkable today to ask all major radio networks to set aside an hour for a dramatic broadcast urging listeners to attend local churches the next morning and make a contribution? How likely would it be for such an effort to recruit dramatic stars of the magnitude of Gregory Peck and Ida Lupino, or to prevail upon the President to bring greetings? The broadcast, called "**One Great Hour**" that first year, is estimated to have elicited the participation of more than 75,000 churches. Since then, the offering has been known as "One Great Hour of Sharing".

Today projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are under way in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. Funds are used for disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid, both in the United States and around the world. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Please use the One Great Hour of Sharing Envelope provided in your box of offering envelopes, or the special One Great Hour of Sharing pew envelopes for your contributions.

Karanda Hospital

We received a November 2008 email from Kiersten Hutchinson regarding the situation in Zimbabwe. Kiersten indicates the situation continues to be grim. Political talks are at a stand-still. Teachers and health care workers are on strike. Food shortages are critical. The Zimbabwe dollar is useless because of severe inflation.

"Corn is now more valuable than a Cow! Grown men are begging for corn to feed their children. We even ran out of corn to feed the patients last week. Miraculously, God made a one-week provision the very next day! It has been exciting to see how and when God meets the needs of His children. Please pray for wisdom and faith to keep trusting God with such overwhelming needs and try not to do it in our own strength."

Thanks for your support of Missions

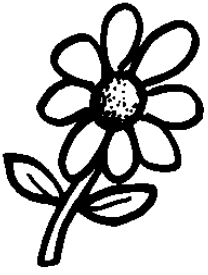
As you know, I am leaving Rhode Island to return to my home in Wheeling, West Virginia. I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks for your support and prayers related to the work of the Mission Committee here at Greenwood. Last month I mentioned that the congregation here at Greenwood is *mission-minded*. It has been a pleasure for me to chair the committee that reflects that characteristic of this congregation. I urge your continued support of God's work through missions that provide financial help and prayers to mission needs in Rhode Island, the country and the world through a great group of individuals that serve as your Mission committee.

-- Henry Ruppenthal

The Mission Committee:

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

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



January and February have been rather quiet months for PW. Circles met despite the snow and ice. The Coordinating Team set our 2009 budget, which was presented to Circles in February for their acceptance. As Greenwood Church has done, we have pared our budget, but still hope to be able to support our many mission projects for this coming year. At the Coordinating Team meeting on February 17 we voted to contribute \$400 to the Copy Fund. As an organization of GCCP we reap the benefits of having this machine available for programs and agendas for our PW gatherings and CT & Circle meetings.

On January 30-31 four members of PW (Nancy Collins, Peg Phillips, Katie Richardson and Timoli Richardson) represented Greenwood PW at the annual PWPSNE winter retreat at the Immaculate Conception Retreat and Conference Center in Putnam, CT. This is always a wonderful time of renewal and relaxation as we renew friendships with women from other churches in the Presbytery of Southern New England. The center is supervised by an order of Lithuanian nuns who always make our stay enjoyable – AND THE FOOD IS GREAT, TOO!

Our Program Committee is busy planning our April 7th Gathering. Tickets for the gathering will be available at March Circle Meetings. See all the particulars in the box below. AND, the Ways and Means Committee is knee-deep in preparation for our May Breakfast on May 2nd. See Peg Phillips if you would like supplies to make May Baskets. CLEAN cardboard milk and juice containers (quart and ½ gallon) are now being collected – these are the ‘hidden base’ of our beautiful baskets. Leave them on the blue table in the downstairs back hall. You will be able to indicate how you would like to help by signing up for specific duties at Circles this month and again in April.

When you receive this FN, Ash Wednesday will be behind us and we will be in the second week of Lent. As we prepare for Holy Week and remember what Christ did for us, we need gentle reminders, such as Life’s Little Instructions below, to help us as we prayerfully seek what God wants from each of us.

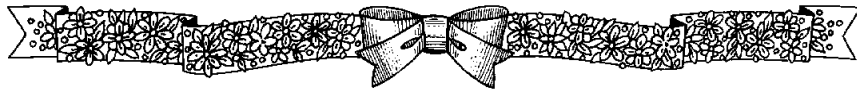
From Life’s Little Instructions from the Bible for March 1st –

Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.

Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

I Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV)

Betty Stacey for Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE NEWS FOR MARCH

“Sharing Our Blessings Through Action”

March winds will bring a few changes to some of our circles. Please note times and places:

Circle I – will meet Tuesday, March 24, at 1:00 PM in the parlor for Lesson 6 in this year’s Bible study: *Jubilee! Luke’s Gospel for the Poor*. All are welcome.

Circle III - will meet Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 PM in the PYF room.

Circle IV - will meet Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. Circle members will enjoy a Lenten tape.

Circle V - will meet on Wednesday, March 4, at 10:30 AM at church. Circle members will enjoy a Lenten tape.

Circle VII – will meet on Tuesday, March 10, at 6:00 PM at Lynda Baker’s to work on a craft project.

(PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME)

All women are invited to visit or join a Circle. You will be most welcome at any of our meetings. Please call me for more information (826-1311).

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

Karen Baxter, Circle Coordinator

PW APRIL GATHERING

Tuesday, April 7

11:00 a.m.

Hostesses: Circle V

T T T T T T T T T T

Tickets for lunch are \$4.00 and can be purchased at March circles.
The lunch menu will be sandwiches, fruit and dessert.

Theme: We will share our blessings as we care for our bodies.

Bob McManus, an instructor from the RI School of Tai Chi will teach us simple Tai Chi moves. He is experienced in working with groups of seniors.

Dress comfortably and come prepared to HAVE FUN!!!

“Gift of the Heart” Kits Reminder

Contributions to the School Kits and Health Kits for distribution by Church World Service throughout the world will be collected through March:

School Kit

Name

Health Kit

Blunt Scissors

(A, B, C, D)

Hand Towel

Pencil Sharpener

(E, F, G, H)

Wash Cloth

Large Eraser

(I, J, K, L)

Bar of Bath Soap

Ruled Pads (70pg)

(M, N, O, P)

Tooth Brush

Pencil with Eraser

(Q, R, S, T)

Nail Clippers

12” Ruller

(U, V, W, Y)

Comb

The collection boxes are on the stage in Fellowship Hall, and monetary contributions can be placed in the School Kits/Health Kits envelopes in the pews.

Thank you for your help.

Angie D’Albora
for Presbyterian Women

March Gathering

Top of the Bay Restaurant
in Oakland Beach
Wednesday, March 18, 11:30 A.M.

Cost per person: \$12.00

Menu

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Corned Beef and Cabbage or Baked Scrod
Soup, Coffee or Tea and Dessert.

Program in Fellowship Hall at 2.00 P.M.

Evelyn Rae will show us beautiful slides of Rhode Island scenery and New England wildflowers that her husband photographed.

If you need a ride or a reservation, please call Evelyn Rae at 738-0959 while Linda is away on vacation.

CAUGHT IN THE NET

Hospitalized since the last issue:

Al Berman

Sympathy is extended to:

The family of Christie McKay who passed away on January 31 in Massachusetts.

Baptism:

Best wishes to Jessica and Scott Vespia who presented their son, Adam Scott, for the Sacrament of Baptism on February 8. Best wishes also to big sister Vanessa and grandparents Pat and Dennis Charpentier.

Birth Announcement:

Greenwood Community Church is pleased to welcome Andrew Robert Bergeron, born on February 4. Proud parents are Severin and Lisa Bergeron.

Engagement Announcement:

Best wishes to Tim Lovejoy and Liz Laires, both members of the Chancel Choir, who have announced their engagement. We wish Tim and Liz God's richest blessing as they plan their future together.

☐ ☐ ☐ ~ **NOTES RECEIVED** ~ ☐ ☐ ~ ☐

Dear Greenwood Friends,

Thank you for the lovely flowers delivered by Joann Rudolph on Sunday, February 1. Your kindness is appreciated.

Nancy Allen

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for the many notes, cards and calls during our five month time of medical problems. You have been so thoughtful and kind, and the birthday surprises were very special! Happiness is having a caring church family.

With love, Jean and Marshall Martin

March Birthdays!

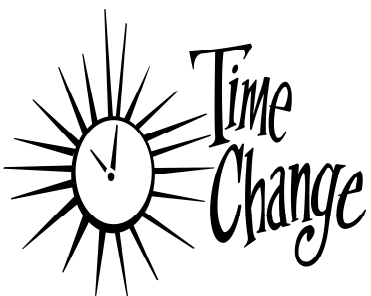
Jackie Aguire
 Ginny Arling
 Janice Black
 Alan Blasdell
 Jean Brown
 Chandler Budlong-Springer
 Marissa Casinelli
 Jackie Combs
 Lois-Belle Crankshaw
 Marsha-Rose Czepyha
 Matt Dailey
 Anne Damm
 Jana Damm
 Alice Danzer
 Jay David
 Megan David
 Jeff Devolve
 Jill Dick
 Amy Donilon
 Jennifer Fink
 Shane Fraser
 Ray Greco
 Bob Gungle



Linda Gungle
 Ralph Hamel
 Greg Harrop
 Jillian Jacobs
 Barbara Johnson
 Alan Jones
 Sarah Kaplan
 Priscilla Kibbe
 Nicholas Martino
 Margaret McInall
 Joan-Sandra McKnight
 Bill Monahan
 Lisa Nichols
 Chloe Pickup
 Kaitlyn Richardson
 Matthew Rothermel
 Rob Soave
 Martha Sommer
 Wilma Swanson
 Dave Tanner, Sr.
 Merton Turner
 Vanessa Vespia
 Dave Williams

DEADLINE for **April FISHERMEN'S NEWS** is **March 8**.
 Please leave articles in the church office or
 e-mail to: FishNews@gccp.org (please include Fishermen's News in the Subject line.)
To all: Please help the editor and office staff get our newsletter prepared by making extra effort to abide by the deadline. Thank you for your consideration!


March



Remember to set your clocks ahead on March 7!

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH,
Presbyterian
805 Main Avenue
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886
Permit No. 170



Stop, Look and Listen

Why should we observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

Psalm 51:12