



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

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

OCTOBER 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

OCTOBER 3, AT 8:00 AND 10:30, WE WILL OBSERVE WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.

Our congregation will be joining Christians around the globe in observing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The following Words of Institution will be heard in services worldwide, and are usually heard every time the Lord's Supper is observed (from I Corinthians 11:23-26)



For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. This do in remembrance of me." In like manner after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Not heard quite as often are Paul's sobering words which immediately follow in verses 27-29:

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

During the 9:00 hour I will be leading a study of the Lord's Supper in Fellowship Hall. What do Presbyterians believe and practice? What exactly "happens" during the Sacrament? Why do the Roman Catholics and some other denominational affiliations prohibit access to the Table to non-members? Why do we call it "Communion"? Why do some call it "the Eucharist"? Should "private communions" be permitted, or is that an oxymoron? In this overview we will trace its roots in the Jewish festivals, its practice in the early church, and its development and history since the first century. We will also examine some of the many, um, *interesting* teachings, practices, and superstitions which have surrounded it over the centuries, as well as some of the current issues in the church today. While there has been (*and continues to be*) raging debates between the various traditions of Christendom over what is meant by "recognizing the body of the Lord", there is universal agreement that any and all partakers should approach the Lord's Table with humility, seriousness, and solemn reflection upon the meaning of the bread and cup. From the PC(USA) Book of Order, W-2.4011:

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. In preparing to receive Christ in this Sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and to trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may come to the Table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus. Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity.

At Greenwood the practice had been that, after receiving instruction in Sunday School from the teachers and pastor, 3rd graders were invited to take their first communion the first Sunday in November. Seven years ago we moved this up to World Communion Sunday in order to enable them to partake with their family of faith around the globe. We invite (*but do not require*) baptized children who are being instructed in the significance and meaning of the Sacrament to participate, recognizing their ability to understand will vary according to their maturity. PLEASE NOTE: We respect those who would prefer to have their children wait to have access to the Table, and don't want to pressure you to conform. Parents are the best judges of their young child(ren)'s ability to understand the Sacrament, and we do not wish to undermine your parental discretion and authority. This is one reason we don't have a more celebratory "First Communion" as practiced in other Christian traditions.

Following the adult class in Fellowship Hall, I will be meeting with the 3rd- 4th grades in the sanctuary at 9:45 to review the meaning of the Lord's Supper; all parents and other interested people are also invited!

Stephen L. Clark, Pastor



Tess Ruhren, with big sister Faith, born 9-7-09 ... Labor Day! Welcome, Tess!!

NURSERY HELPERS NEEDED FOR THE 9:00 HOUR!

We have potentially five (and maybe more) families who would greatly benefit from having nursery care available during the 9:00 hour. However, we have a pressing shortage of volunteers to make this happen! We are well staffed for the 10:30 hour (*thank you, Emmy Kmet, for a commendable job in recruiting and coordinating volunteers for 10:30!*) but some of those helping also teach Sunday School AND are helping with Children's Church. If you are available on the occasional Sunday at 9:00 and would like to do *your* part to help accommodate our families with young children, please let me or the church office know at your earliest convenience. **THANK YOU!**

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)



The good news is: 1) the church's income to date has been sufficient to meet our expenses and obligations to date as the result of some of our members increased giving at the start of the year which puts us \$15,000 ahead of where we were in our giving at this time last year, when we were already using Memorial and Endowment Fund Income to meet expenses, 2) we have given over \$18,000 to the capital campaign, the copier fund, and designated mission gifts. This is especially commendable in light of the crises in the local and national economy this year. Thank you for your faithful generosity.

However, we are now in the position that expenses for the balance of the year must be funded through income received during the balance of the year.

The issue we are dealing with is that we are \$13,000 behind in our income from pledged and planned giving as of the middle of September.

The Session continues to review all church spending to minimize our expenses while still meeting our obligations so that church expenses will be at or below budget at the end of the year. As we have highlighted before, the majority of the church's expenses for the year are fixed once we have made our commitments to our mission projects and our staff.

We all need to ask ourselves what we can do to meet our pledged or planned giving for the year, or is it possible for us, through God's grace, to increase our giving for the year.

This is the kind of challenge that we at Greenwood have risen to overcome before. This is something we can do when we put our hearts and our minds to it. This challenge is no greater than the one we met in the first quarter of this year.

“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

Capital Campaign

Plans have been finalized for the steeple repair and work will be in progress by the time you read this update. To date the capital campaign has received almost \$8,500. After resolving a few technical issues the line of credit loan from UBS Bank will be finalized by the end of September. To insure the availability of upfront funding needed to start the project, \$49,000 in income from the Memorial and Endowment Fund was transferred to the Church's savings account.



MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE



What does evangelism mean to you? Does it create images of missionaries traveling to foreign lands to bring the gospel message to those who have not heard the good news? Certainly that is one important area of evangelism that we at Greenwood support through our mission giving. But evangelism doesn't stop there. The dictionary in Microsoft Word defines evangelism as, “The spreading of Christianity, especially through the work of evangelists.” We all have opportunities for evangelism right in our own neighborhoods and workplace.

In the gospel reading from Mark on September 20, we heard that when the disciples were unsuccessful in ridding the boy of his demon, they brought him to Jesus. That is evangelism in action, and we are all called to follow their example. We can all be on the lookout for opportunities to bring our friends, coworkers, or even family members to Jesus. Sometimes, we bring our friends to Jesus with our prayers that they may gain the strength and hope to deal with the challenges that face them and that they may eventually come to know Jesus themselves. Sometimes, we may lead others to Jesus by our example, as they see our faith in action.

Someone you know may just be waiting for an invitation to come to church—to worship, a Bible study class, circle meeting, 39ers, or other activity. You may know people who were raised as Christians but drifted away from attending church as adults. Now they feel something is lacking in their hectic lives, and they are ready to respond to a personal invitation to return. Besides reaching out to potential new Christians or new members, we can also reach out to old friends in our Greenwood Church family. Do you have a friend you haven't seen in church for a while? Consider making a friendly call to make sure everything is OK and to let them know they are missed. We invite everyone to be an evangelist and bring someone to Jesus.

As part of our formal Evangelism program, the Member Care Committee will be organizing a series of Inquirer classes beginning in mid-October and culminating in the reception of new members for those who are ready for this next step. Details will be available soon, but if you are interested in participating or know of someone you might invite to come, please contact a member of the committee or the church office.

Elaine Magyar, Member Care Committee Chair

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD:

Dear Friends in Christ,

My bookmark in the PCUSA's *Mission Yearbook of Prayer* contains the following quote,

"Say yes to the surprises that annihilate your dreams, which give a completely different direction to your day and, perhaps, even to your life. They are not a whim of fate. Let your Father in Heaven decide for himself the course of your days and your years." (Dom Helder Camara, 1909-1983, Archbishop/Brazil)



It recently dawned on me that this is indeed God's 'watchword' for my last months. I am not sure that I have had dreams annihilated, but I have had my plans changed, days turned upside down, and much of what I 'thought' was going to happen either be postponed or morph into something completely 'other' than I planned.

The Spring semester kept me jumping! The students were for the most part attentive (...I mean, after all, Intro to Bible **IS** a required course?!), and more often than not, conversations after class revealed genuine curiosity and fascination with this fellow, Jesus. It shouldn't have surprised me, but it did; first off, a student asked to read more about Jesus, and as I handed her a few books on basics of faith from my shelf to take home to read for the summer, she seemed genuinely heartened. ☺ Please keep this seeker in your prayers...

My 'vacation'(a small one of sorts) was a speedy three weeks in Germany, Hungary, and 'tour guiding' in Lithuania. I visited friends in Berlin and Schwerin and spent three research days in a library. In Eger, Hungary I 'conferenced' with over 450 Christians from all over Europe. The *European Leadership Forum* is a great look at what God is doing in countries from Norway to Romania, Ukraine to Spain. I didn't really belong there though, for the conference is intended for Europeans, and I was duly reminded that I am ever as much a guest and a stranger in this part of the world!(cf. Ministry at the Margins, Strategy and Spirituality for Mission by Anthony Gittins, ORBIS---highly recommended reading). However, I was fed with stimulating teaching and genuinely gladdened by the singing and fellowship, and am determined to encourage colleagues from LCC and congregations in Lithuania to attend next year. One highlight was getting to meet Myrto, the only other woman in the Theologians' Network. She's finishing her doctorate at Tyndale House, Cambridge and will soon return to an ecumenical Bible institute in Athens, the only one of its kind in Greece---as the first woman theologian in that setting. She's on *my* prayer list!

Long-time friends from Berlin, the Harvey's, braved the cool fall weather we're having this June and came to Lithuania; our 'tour' went on---despite wind, cold, rain, and not enough sleep for the guide! For some pictures, I invite you to visit the new *Mission Crossroads PC(USA)* website (<http://missioncrossroads.ning.com/>); you will have to sign up and 'join' the site to see the photos. I have hopes and plans to make this my new and more immediate way of communicating, so give it a try, please! The more of you who register there, the easier it will be to assemble the correct email addresses for supporting congregations and several hundred individuals on my current mailing list. I will be organizing a 'group' soon, so please post your presence on my home page. (this is the 'whim of fate' part from the quote....I have the technical computer skills of a small house plant; yet I am determined to try.)

It is indeed a decision we make, to LET God set the 'course of our days and our years.' As I head off to teach and visit a student spending many years of his young life in prison and then travel on to the Synod meeting of the Reformed Church(photos at <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/holslagj.html>), I remember the first Easter I spent in Lithuania, March 1991! I was traveling with church folks from Berlin; it was a journey of reconciliation, Germans going to Russia and the Baltics on the anniversary of their WW2 invasion some 50 years prior, to ask forgiveness, open the dialogue, show a 'sign' of hope. After incredible days in Leningrad(St. Petersburg) and Riga(Latvia), we attended the first public Easter services in Lithuania in over 40 years, with both Lutheran and Reformed congregations. Both buildings had just been returned from the state, neither in great shape, but the gathered saints didn't mind and the services went on for hours. What an Easter celebration that was! I could hardly believe I was there at that amazing time. AND now I am here, in this amazing time...

I could have no more guessed God's plans and ways for my life that icy Easter in Vilnius than I can say what tomorrow will hold, but "I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day." (2 Tim 1.12). Please pray with me as I entrust to him these hours and the work I am called to do this summer---continued reading, interview analysis and writing for my dissertation, course reading and planning for the upcoming school year, preparation for chairing the Faculty Council and the theology department(this fall we'll be 9-strong). Pray with me for conversations with colleagues and Lithuanian friends I otherwise don't see much of during the school year. May I be faithful to God's call in this time and place and with these efforts.

Thank you for your letters and notes, your prayers, your financial support, your care!

In the love of Christ, Jane Holslag



Mark This Date!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – *Looking Ahead!!!*

Please mark your calendar now and plan to join us on November 22, at 4 p.m. for a **THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL!** Following a musical program in the Sanctuary (church choirs and congregational singing) we will have a potluck "picnic" in Fellowship Hall, plus an opportunity to make a Thanksgiving craft to take home! Watch for more details next month.

HART BEAT – CHILDREN’S MUSIC UPDATE



The children’s music program (Joyful Song) has been restructured. Only a small number of families could commit to weekly rehearsals, so we are offering an abbreviated choir program instead. There will be two blocks of time for the children to attend rehearsals leading up to specific events. Hopefully, more families will be able to commit to one or both of these time periods.

The first event is a Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday, November 22, at 4:00. All the choirs will participate in a brief program preceding a potluck dinner and crafts. To prepare for the program, the children (grades 1-8) will rehearse October 18 and 25, November 1 and 8 at 5:00 p.m.

The second time block will be in February/March leading up the Choristers Guild Choir Festival on March 20, 2010, and participation in Palm Sunday or Easter worship services. Rehearsals for children in grades 3-8 will be February 21 and 28, and March 7 and 14 at 5:00 p.m.

We hope all families will consider this revised schedule and make time for your child to participate in these fun events!



BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Well, it seems that summer has flown by again and it’s time for the fall ‘All Church Work Day’! The Building & Grounds Committee will have found a few items to fix, paint, hose-off and clean! We will need helpers to finish the painting projects we started last spring, as well as the places that need to be touched up before the weather turns on us! Come to the church at 9 a.m., October 3, ready to work! The great turn out of helpers last spring put more than a few jobs off the ‘to do list’ and the B & G Committee would

love to add more jobs to that list after the 3rd!

Remember, rain or shine, we will be starting at 9 a.m., and the more of us that show, the sooner we can get those needed jobs done!

See you on October 3rd!



In His Name,

Glenn Fairbairn

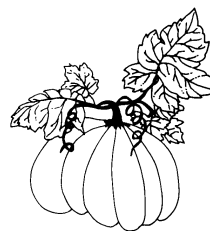
Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair

39-ERS OCTOBER GATHERING

Wednesday, October 21, 11:30 a.m.

Top of the Bay in Oakland Beach

\$12.00 per person for the meal



Menu

Sirloin Tips or Ham

Salad, Coffee or Tea & Dessert

The cost is \$12.00.

Program

The program will take place back in Fellowship Hall. Peggy O’Connor, who is the director of the Gilbert Stuart Birthplace will speak to us about this historic site.

If you need a ride or reservation, please call Linda Gungle.

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Fall Activities have begun. By the time you read this, we will have had our Fall Coffee and Circle meetings. If you missed these, please be sure to come to our next event.

Our first PW Gathering of the year will be the Annual Pot Luck Supper and Program on October 6. See the details below. Remember: Guests are always welcome; just call the church office to sign up.

Presbyterian Women are sponsoring Blanket Sunday again this year. The cost of a blanket is \$5, but any amount you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Envelopes will be in the pews for the next few weeks. Thank you for helping us to send comfort and support to children and families all over the world.

The Fall PWPSNE Gathering will be held at Springfield Presbyterian Church in Springfield, MA, on October 24. Check with any Coordinating Team member for details. We'd like to send a sizable number of women to this annual event.

LOOKING AHEAD: Greenwood Church will host the Presbytery of Southern New England on Saturday, November 14. Presbyterian Women will be handling the "Coffee And" in the morning as well as the luncheon. The luncheon will be cooked by Stu Mason and his kitchen crew. We will need volunteers to help bake, set up, serve, and clean up for this event. Signup sheets will be available at Circle meetings. If you would like to help, but won't be attending a Circle meeting, just call me at 789-1002.

I hope to see you on October 6 for our Fall Gathering!

"Come as a guest, leave as a friend."

Betty Mason
for Presbyterian Women

'ROUND IN CIRCLES FOR OCTOBER

Unfortunately, Circles III & IV have not had their first meeting of the year as of the deadline for this issue of the Fishermen's News, so times of meetings are correct, but programs still have to be decided. As the year progresses, I will try to have the info as current as possible.

Circle V will meet on Wednesday, October 7, at 10:30 a.m. They will be working on a project for our December mini-bazaar and helping with the MS Key Club.

Circle III will meet on Tuesday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the PYF room (1st floor, west wing).

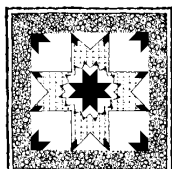
Circle IV will meet on Tuesday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor.

Circle VII will meet on Tuesday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Lynda Baker to work on a craft for our mini-bazaar.

Circle I will meet on Tuesday, October 27, at 1:00 p.m. in the church parlor. They will be studying Lesson 2 of Joshua: A Journey of Faith. Each month's study is complete in itself, so even if you are unable to attend every month, please consider joining us when you are able.

If you have any questions about Circles, please call me at 737-0717.

Betty Stacey
Circle Coordinator



QUILTING

PICASSO QUILTERS

Thank you for all the donations of clean, used blankets, mattress pads, sheets, men's ties, and fabric pieces of at least 2 yards. They have made it possible for our group of 13 to complete over 30 sleeping bags for the homeless so far. We'd like to keep going as the temperature falls and ask that if we've exhausted your supply of these items, you ask your relatives, friends, and neighbors for any suitable items they might have taking up space in their closets. Just leave your donations on the blue table just inside the back door of the church with my name (Sandy Olson, 647-7034) on them. You will help keep some people from freezing this winter. Thank you again.

Thank you so much for sending us a beautiful flower arrangement in celebration of the birth of our baby daughter, Tess. We also appreciate your lovely cards and good wishes.

Fondly, Karen, Scott & Faith Ruhren

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Care Net RI Baby Bottle Campaign. The final contribution total to this project was \$786.07. On behalf of Care Net RI and myself, May God bless you all.

Monika Algozino, Board of Deacons

Dear Greenwood Friends,

I want to thank you all for the many get well wishes and prayers. You wouldn't believe how it brightens the day. I'm at Carriage Hill—about 2 miles from Bob and Amy's home. They have prepared a room for me with no stairs for when I can leave here. I have an appointment with the doctor on the 18th and I hope I can shed the black boot.

In Christian love, Betty Young

Dear Pastor Clark,

A young man delivered flowers to us yesterday, Labor Day. Charlie and I thank you so much for the lovely flowers and the wonderful thought. It brightened our day.

Again, thank you so much.

Love and peace, Cindy and Charlie Hackett

Dear Friends,

How nice of you to remember my 89th birthday with such a beautiful bouquet of flowers. I appreciated it very much. It certainly brightened my apartment. Thank you very much. I hope Jean can bring me to church with her soon, so I can speak to you all personally.

Much love, Anne Fraser

Dear Members of Greenwood Church,

My sincere thanks to Peggy Phillips for her pleasant visit and her bringing me the altar flowers.

Thanks also to everyone for the cards and get well wishes during my latest surgery.

In Christian love, Gladys Bracker

I would like to thank Bob Allard for filling in for Mike Koczan. Bob is doing a great job with the MS Group who come out for our Circle V Gatherings.

Evelyn Rae

Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Greenwood Church,

Thank you so much for your continuing financial support of Rhode Island Young Life. Your support enables RIYL to reach a growing number of area teens who are hearing and responding to the Gospel message. Praise God.

We are so thankful for your partnership in this ministry!

In His Grace,

Jennifer Cameron for RIYL ri.younglife.org

CAUGHT IN THE NET

Hospitalized since the last issue:

Keegan Carson Mike Koczan

Sympathy is extended to:

Tom Harrop and his family on the loss of his mother on September 20.

Wedding Wishes to:

- Andrew Donnelly and Dana Terpening who were married on Saturday, September 12.
- Sarah Leggett and Todd Prentiss who were married on Saturday, September 26.

Best Wishes to:

- Matt Barber and Arielle Nazareth who became engaged in August and plan a wedding for July, 2011.
- Paula Johnson who welcomed a new granddaughter on August 23!
- Karen and Scott Ruhren who welcomed a baby daughter, Tess DiLisio, on September 7. Best wishes also to big sister Faith!
- Lauren Paetznick, daughter of Sandra Redding, who was recently engaged.

Ann Marie Bataitis
 Barry Baxter
 David Brett
 Marjorie Burbank
 Gina Carson
 Kathy Cheney
 Betty Cloxton
 John Combs
 Rachael Czepyha
 Janice Dailey
 Brandon Danzer
 Myrle Dean
 Joe DelCioppio
 Rita Deming
 Andrew Donilon
 Doris Fahlman
 Alex Grande



Jean Greco
 Cheslyn Harrop
 Michelle Jodoin
 Emmy Kmet
 Richard LaBanca
 Naomi Martino
 Peggy McKeever
 Lori Pickup
 Scott Quigley
 Joyce Riccitelli
 Karen Ruhren
 Doris Safford
 Grace Seufert
 Nancy Soave
 Ashley Taylor
 Abigail Williams
 Hannah Williams

The DEADLINE for the **November Fishermen's News** is **October 11**.
 Please leave articles in the church office or email to:
FishNews@gccp.org
 (Be sure to include *Fishermen's News* in the subject line.)