



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

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

SEPTEMBER 2009



WORSHIP SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

9:00 A.M. Worship and Sunday School,
10:30 A.M. Worship

ON COMMUNION SUNDAYS:

(first Sunday of each month, beginning October)

8:00 Worship, 9:00 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship

After much intense and conscientious deliberation over a period of months, Session voted in June (*in a very close vote*) to return to the old schedule of 8:00 Worship, 9:15 Sunday School, and 10:30 Worship. However, as the vote was close, it was decided to wait until after Session received additional input from Member Care Committee visits to possibly reconsider. Here is a partial list of reasons which led to the original June vote:



- (a) Some who occasionally or regularly attended the 8:00 service due to work obligations the previous eleven years (*9/1997 – 6/2008*) were not accommodated by the change last September from eight to nine o'clock, as some work shifts would begin as early as 9:30.
- (b) The schedule adopted January 2009 allows for no pastoral involvement in the Sunday School, which is especially difficult without a Director of Christian Education on staff. Adult Christian Education attendance averaged about 20-25 during pastoral and/or DCE involvement; at times it reached 50-60, especially when we had guest speakers or a special program (*the first Sunday of the DaVinci Code class in 2005 drew nearly ninety*). Also, with simultaneous worship and Sunday School, the pastor could no longer take part in special events such as Rally Day, Promotion Day, visiting classes, or instructing third graders' communion and/or New Members' classes.
- (c) Since the schedule change to 9:00 Worship and Sunday School, the observable result in five months (January through June) had been a net loss of at least four (perhaps six) regularly attending children/students in worship, and a gain of two in Sunday School.

Two special Session meetings were subsequently held July and August. Without going into detail of all the deliberations, let's just say the final motion hammered out (as detailed above) was seen as a sincere compromise to conscientiously seek accommodation of ALL concerns expressed by congregation members. While acknowledging the concerns of those who wish to have Sunday School simultaneous with worship, the advantages of this small monthly adaptation in this new schedule include (1) accommodating at least monthly those who must work Sundays, (2) allowing the Pastor to maintain a monthly involvement in Sunday School, (3) allowing a little more time between services for the choir and Music Director as Communion Sundays tend to run a bit longer, and (4) allowing a monthly time slot for occasional special guest speakers, presentations and/or events. This will affect just eight Sundays September through June (*out of forty-one*) for those who prefer to attend the earlier service; the 10:30 service will remain constant (*excepting the 3 Sundays we've traditionally observed the holiday schedule, one service at 9:30, and Easter Sunday, 9 and 11.*).

On behalf of the Session, thank you for your understanding, help, accommodation and cooperation.

Stephen L. Clark, Pastor

SOME PICTURES FROM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND PYF MISSION TRIP. Thanks again to the always-capable leadership of Lisa David and her energetic team of 15 volunteers for VBS, and to PYF leaders Steve Nazareth, Emmy Kmet, Timoli Richardson, Matt Barber, Eric McNeely and Chris Nazareth for a rewarding and challenging week for our young people.



THIS MONTH IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
christianed@gccp.org

News from Sunday School

It's almost here: the new Sunday School year! This year starts off on **September 13, 2009** with our **Rally Day!** At 9:00 a.m. (*note the new schedule time*) children in kindergarten and those in grades one through six should sit with their classes in Fellowship Hall. Toddlers (ages 18 months to 3years) and Junior and Senior High students should report directly to their classrooms.



Parents: It is **important** that children have a registration card on file before they attend classes. You can save yourself some time by picking up and filling out registration card(s) for your child(ren) **before September 13th**. Cards will be available in Fellowship Hall starting August 30th. You can fill out the cards before and after church and leave them in the box provided.

Adult Sunday School

Pastor Clark and "Travelin" Dave Williams will continue to share duties; we're also planning to have guest teachers throughout the year. Have an idea for a future topic? Please share it with us. When you come, we encourage you to bring a friend. What a great way to demonstrate and share your faith in Jesus Christ.

Web Site

Check out the web site at www.gccp.org. Register as a new user and you're off! Our calendar is now online and up to date. If you have an event you would like listed or if you would like your existing listing jazzed up, let us know or ask Sue Desmond for help. Sermons can now be found under the Pastor's page and the Fishermen's News will soon follow on the website. Feel free to make suggestions as to how we can make the website more useful to you.

PYF News

PYF has recently returned from our very successful mission trip to Passport Mission Camp at Gordon College. A tremendous amount of work, worship and fun was crammed into one week. As if to underscore the need for Christ's presence in our worksite community, one of our groups was startled as a gunshot rang out nearby on the first day of work. The group was immediately evacuated; police eventually apprehended a teenaged suspect who, for reasons unknown, had fired upon a dog (fortunately, the dog only received a paw injury). After determining the incident had been adequately handled by authorities, it was decided to have the group return to continue their work and demonstrate God's loving presence in that community the remainder of the week. We wish to thank those who helped PYF attend this mission camp through their generous contributions. Thank you to Presbyterian Women, the Board of Deacons, Greenwood Mission Committee, anonymous donors and those who have supported the PYF breakfast and lunches. Without your support this important part of our youth ministry would not be possible.

PYF's first meeting will take place on September 13th from 6-8 pm.

Christian Education committee: Stephen Nazareth, Seth Paradise,
Lisa David, Wendy Petrucci

HART BEAT

Let the season begin--back to school, back to Sunday School, and back to choir!



This year, **Joyful Song** will encompass **grades 3-8** to provide continuity for the fun that began last year. We'll meet **Sundays from 5:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.** This group sings and rings bells/chimes while learning the fundamentals that enable them to read music.

Consistent attendance is important for the individuals as well as the choir as a group to grow and learn. We'll participate in worship every 4-6 weeks.

The **Bell Choir** will meet **Sundays at 11:45 A.M.**, following the second worship service. This group will include **6th graders through adults**. The prerequisite is **some music-reading ability and/or at least one year playing bells/chimes**. A commitment to good attendance is very important for this group!

The **Chancel Choir** meets **Wednesdays from 7:30 P.M.-9:00P.M.** and is open to upper high school age and adults who want to sing, rejoice and provide important elements of our worship. The ability to read music is NOT required—just a commitment to attend and learn. The choir convenes **Sundays at 10:00 A.M.** to prepare for worship.

Chancel Choir rehearsals will resume Wednesday, Sept. 2. Joyful Song and Bell Choir will begin Sept. 13. We're looking for new members in ALL groups. Please talk to current choir members and Kathy Hart for more info and let us know of your interest!



THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



“And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6: 8)

The Stewardship Committee wants to thank all the members and friends of Greenwood for their continuing support during the summer. However, we have experienced the typical fall off in giving during the summer months. The Stewardship Committee would appreciate your keeping up with your planned pledges and giving, as we work to keep our income and expenses in line during a difficult year.

At the end of July we are looking at a potential shortfall in income of about \$8,700 for the year. On a positive note we have received about \$7,200 for the fund to repair the steeple.

We should all be very proud of the way we are supporting God's work in and through his church at 805 Main Avenue in Warwick, Rhode Island.



**“In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.”
(Romans 12: 5-6a)**

Barry Baxter
Stewardship Committee Chair

39-ERS SEPTEMBER GATHERING

Wednesday, September 16, 11:00 a.m.
(Please note the change in time.)

Top of the Bay in Oakland Beach

\$12.00 per person for the meal



Menu

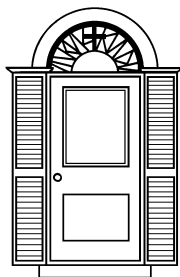
*Baked Scrod or Stuffed Chicken Breast
Salad, Coffee or Tea & Dessert
The cost is \$12.00.*

Program

We will return to the church where we will carpool to the Botanical Gardens for a guided tour. There will be an additional charge of \$3.00.

MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

By now, at least some of you have spent time in conversation with one of our volunteer ambassadors. We are grateful to our volunteers and to all of you who have shared your stories about what brought you to Greenwood Church, your thoughts on various aspects of worship and Christian Education, mission and social activities, and your ideas for ways we can continue to keep our church strong and vibrant. When we began this program of visits, we knew it was an ambitious undertaking. Making the contacts and finding times when folks can be visited either in person or by phone can be a challenge, especially in the summer when days are long and folks are off doing things well into the evening or are away on vacation. Not surprisingly, we have observed that our retired volunteers have been most prompt at completing their visits and that retirees are also more flexible when it comes to setting up a visit. If you have not heard from anyone yet, we haven't forgotten you. It's just that this process will take longer to complete than our optimistic estimates. In fact, if anyone would like to volunteer to help us by serving as a visiting ambassador, it's not too late. Just contact any member of the committee.



Welcome!

With September and the start of another school year, we are working to schedule a variety of activities during the coming year. Our goal is to have a series of monthly all-church events sponsored by different committees and other church groups. If you or your organization has ideas for programs, let us know. We have only begun to analyze the suggestions made during the visitation program, but there appear to be many good ideas. In order to implement these ideas, however, we need your help! We need more volunteers who can help us to plan programs, organize a square dance, bike trip, or other excursion. Even if you can't make it to the monthly meetings of the Member Care Committee, we can use your help! Let one of us know how you can help.

Finally, we are planning a new series of Inquirer's Classes for potential new members in the fall. Contact the church office if you are interested in participating and check the bulletin for the schedule of classes.

Member Care Committee: Elaine Magyar, Peter McKnight, Joan-Sandra McKnight, David Dickerman, Melinda DelCioppio, Cheryl Bullock, Lynn Kramer

PICASSO QUILTERS

This past June a new service group was formed here at Greenwood Community Church: The Picasso Quilters. This group has joined a long list of similar ones from throughout the country who gather to make quilts/sleeping bags for the homeless. The sleeping bags are simply made from gently used and donated pieces of cloth, sheets, blankets, mattress pads, and men's ties. Many of you have generously donated these items over the summer. We thank you and we hope you will continue to find serviceable, clean items for us to use.



So far our group of 12 has completed 14 sleeping bags. So long as the donations of supplies keep coming, we will keep making these emergency sleeping bags that will be given out to individuals who are out in the cold. Our friend Tom Miller has offered to be our contact person with the agencies that work daily to meet some of the needs of the homeless.

The women who are members of this group welcome all of you who would like to join us for one or more of our sessions. Don't be intimidated by the name *quilt*. While several members of this group are sewers, others are not. All hands are kept busy and conversations abound—much like an old-fashioned quilting bee. Check out our fall schedule in the church bulletin or you can call Sandy Olson at 647-7034 for more information.

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Welcome back to the Fall schedule! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer. I am looking forward to being your new PW Moderator and to working with the dedicated officers on our coordinating team. A big thank you to Betty Stacey who has been a great help in getting me acquainted with my new duties.

September 15 will be the Coordinating Team meeting and we will set up our plans for the year. September 22 will be the Fall Coffee and Circle Meetings. We will all gather together for refreshments and fellowship and

then meet as individual circles to make plans for the fall. If any women are interested in joining a Circle, please come visit with us that evening. As Betty Stacey always quotes, "Come as a guest, leave as a friend". Our meeting dates have been switched for September, but will go back to the regular dates for the rest of the year.

Blanket Sunday will be on September 13. Contribution envelopes will be in the church pews.

Looking ahead to October: The PW Fall Gathering will be our annual Pot Luck Supper and Program on October 6 at 6:30. We will be asking the Woodbury Presbyterian Church Women to be our guests. Signup sheets will be available at our September Circle meetings. (See Details Below)

Betty Mason
for Presbyterian Women

ROUND IN CIRCLES FOR SEPTEMBER



Circles will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, in Fellowship Hall. Following refreshments and brief announcements each circle will meet separately.

New Program Books will be handed out and plans for the coming year will be discussed. Even if you are not currently a member of a circle, please consider joining us for fellowship with other women from Greenwood. We would love to add new members to all our Circles. Please call me at 737-0717 if you have any questions.

Hope to see YOU on the 22nd!

Betty Stacey
Circle Coordinator

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Tuesday, October 6th
6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall



Pot Luck Supper

Please bring a dish of your choosing to share.
PW will provide the place settings.

Program

Virginia Williams will present *Out Back—Is This Trip Necessary?* an entertaining, as well as informative slide presentation on local outhouses. Bring your own entertaining stories for this fun evening.

Sign up at the September 22nd meeting or call the church office.

CAUGHT IN THE NET

Hospitalized since the last issue:

Peter McKnight Ruth Allard
Gladys Bracker Mike Koczan
Bob Chase Betty Young
Evelyn Kaplan

Wedding Wishes to: Andrew Magyar and Kendra Lee Juhola who were married on July 25 in the Church of the Pilgrimage, in Plymouth, MA. They now reside in Cambridge, MA. Congratulations to Elaine and Jim Magyar, Andrew's proud parents.

Our sympathy is extended to:

- the family of Jessie Tanner who passed away on June 19. Jessie is the mother of Al, Dave and Nancy Tanner and the sister of Marge Woodard.
- Evelyn Rae who lost her sister August 14.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ NOTES RECEIVED ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

*To the Board of Deacons and Missions Committee,
I wanted to sincerely thank you for financially supporting me this summer. Summer Beach Project with Campus Outreach in Myrtle Beach was an amazing experience. I feel as though I learned a ton about the Lord, myself, and the real world. I have grown in my love and appreciation for Jesus and have really developed a desire to share the Gospel with those who have not yet come to know or accept Him. God certainly revealed himself to me this summer in a variety of ways and I'm so happy I was able to have that experience, which was due largely to the Board and the Missions Committee. I would also like to thank Pastor Clark and the whole congregation for all of the prayerful support and encouragement I received. Thank you all so much!*

In Christ, Frank Hurd

Dear Members and Friends,

The chancel flowers were beautiful. Thank you for sharing them with me. A special thank you to Evelyn Murray whose visits are always welcome. For your thoughts and concerns I am most grateful.

Sincerely, Ken Olson

*Dear Greenwood Community Church Family,
Thank you for the graduation card and book. I'm very excited to have graduated from high school and am looking forward to attending Springfield College in the fall.*

Love, Amy Donilon

Dear Members of Greenwood Church,

My sincere thanks to Eric McNeely for his pleasant visit in June and to Peggy Phillips for her visit in July when they each brought me chancel flowers. Thank you also to all the members who continue to send me beautiful cards.

I feel truly blessed to be a member of such a kind, caring, church.

In Christian love, Gladys Bracker

Dear Steve and the GCC Folks,

Thank you so very much for welcoming Red Entry Arts Stage Project and sharing your space with us. We have been having a BLAST. You are gracious hosts, but also brothers and sisters in Christ. I marvel at your openness to new things and your desire to reach beyond the physical church building to those who are hurting.

I truly hope the students participating in this theatre project will take with them a true desire to reach out to others through their gifts. I'm blessed to share space with people who already do just that.

Blessings, Heidi Dowiot

Dear Greenwood Friends,

Thank you to all who remembered me with cards and prayers at the time of my sister's passing. Thank you also to Peggy Phillips who delivered the chancel flowers on Sunday. I appreciate all the thoughts and love from my Greenwood friends.

In Christian Love, Evelyn Rae

September Birthdays

*Julia Aguire
Samantha Aguire
Elsa Ashton
Matt Barber
Sandra Barnes
Tanner Barnes
Nancy Blasdell
Beverly Carson
Bill Cheney
Tracy D'Albora
Holly Damm
Sean Daylor
Melinda DelCioppio
Joyce Devolve
Anne Fraser
Lynda Gudmundson
Tom Harrop
Kathy Hart*

*Cathy Insana
Jesstin Jacobs
Jack Kramer
Lynn Kramer
Julia LaBanca
Norm MacLeod
Eric McNeely
Matthew Nazareth
Ron Nichols
Wayne Nolan
Bob Nordstrom
Terence Paquette
Tom Paradise
Chris Richardson
Dave Tanner, Jr.
Laura Taylor
Beverly Walstead
Maya Weathers*