



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.

