



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

The Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian

805 Main Avenue; Warwick, Rhode Island

www.gccp.org

September 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Crisp air. School buses. Chrysanthemums.

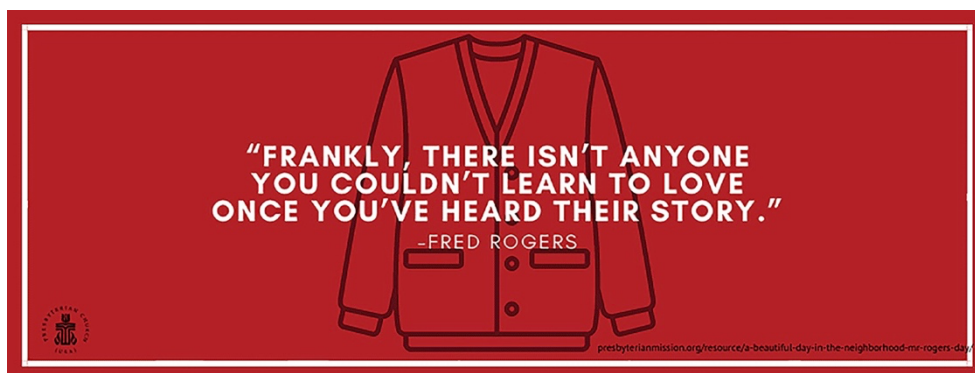
The signs of September signal a shift from summer into autumn. As a church family, we'll start the new season together on **RALLY DAY, September 14th**. I've discovered that not everyone is familiar with the term Rally Day. In North Carolina we called it Homecoming. It's also known as Welcome Back Day or Kick-Off Sunday. It refers to the start of the church's new program year and celebrates **a renewed effort to "draw together for a common purpose."** (Webster's).

During worship on Rally Day, we'll be drawn together around the common purpose of **"neighboring,"** from the Luke 10 question, **"Who is my neighbor?"** to Mr. Rogers' musical question, **"Won't you be my neighbor?"** Fred Rogers was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Pittsburgh in 1963, with a specific charge to serve children and families through the relatively new medium of Public Television. He set his show in the context of a neighborhood like the one in which he'd grown up. He invited us to be part of that neighborhood. He introduced us to other neighbors and their stories, from Chef Brockett to Handyman Negri. Jesus' command to love "our neighbors as ourselves" begs several questions: **Who are our neighbors here at Greenwood Church? Do we know their names? What are their stories? What do they love to do? What are some of their daily concerns and needs? What interests do we share?** It challenges us to move outside our doors to meet them, especially since some of them have good reasons for never wanting to darken the door of any church.

In the spirit of Mr. Rogers, come prepared on Rally Day to sing some songs from Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. And don't forget to wear a cardigan!

Joyfully,

Pastor Dallas



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6, RSV

Summer Wrap-up

The audience had a perfect summer evening on August 16 for the last Outdoor Movie Night. With the arrival of September, the Christian Education programs are getting ready to start a new program year and have lots of things planned for those of all ages.

RALLY DAY IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14!



Our lovely Rhode Island summer is coming to an end. On September 14, we will welcome the young members of our congregation back to their Sunday School classes. Students will begin worship with their families in the sanctuary. They will listen to a Children's Message from Mrs. David and then be excused for Sunday School.



Sunday School lessons will follow the sermon focus each week. There will be a common thread in terms of scripture focus so families can discuss the passage with children following the church service. Sunday School

lessons will be an extension of the Time with the Children message (scripture focus for the week) and will include praise and worship songs, a video lesson focusing on the Bible passage, a snack and craft/project also focused on the weekly scripture. There will also be time for socialization and play following the lesson with an extended social/play time on Communion Sundays when we utilize the crib room/play space at the end of the morning.

29Eleven and King's Kids

Our youth fellowship groups will also begin on September 14, under the leadership of Director of Family Ministries, Virginia Jacobs and Cynthia Pisano. Youth in grades K-6 can attend King's Kids at 4:30 until 6:00 p.m. The 29Eleven group is for students in grades 7-12. They will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Miss Cindy and Miss Ginny are excited to see everyone and explore God's word together along with having lots of fun and fellowship! All are welcome, even if they have never attended before. Bring your friends! Parents and grandparents, encourage the young folks in your family to come. The start of the year is a great time to try something new and make some new friends, and there shouldn't be too much homework or competing activities early in the school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Parents' Night Out

Parents, this is your opportunity to bring your children to spend a fun Friday night with us from 6:00–9:00 p.m., usually the first Friday of each month unless notified otherwise. The program is directed by DFM Virginia Jacobs, assisted by another trained adult and often some of our teens. Drop the kids off and head to a movie, dinner or just a little quiet time knowing your children are in good hands and having a great time!

Looking Ahead to October–Some Special Dates for your Calendar

Friday, October 3, 6-9 p.m. Parents' Night Out

October 19 is Christian Education Sunday. Third Graders and older students who are new to our Sunday School will be presented with Bibles and our teachers and youth leaders will be commissioned.

Sunday, October 26, 4:00 p.m. The Annual Pumpkin Carving and Trunk or Treat starting at 4:00 p.m.

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We welcome all women to join our efforts for the 2025-2026 year, while enjoying fellowship "A circle of strength, founded on faith!" This year we plan to 'mix-up' our PW adventures. We have a yearlong goal to focus on supporting, by collecting, and even creating kits of feminine hygiene products to support the 40% of women in Rhode Island who suffer Period Poverty. While we have in the past focused on food and cleaning products, we learned that many families need to choose food over hygiene, especially feminine hygiene. Likewise, we plan to continue our support of School and Health Kits for Church World Service, plus we will select a different agency to receive any funds that we receive via the PW Envelopes found in the church pews – with the first donation supporting September's National Food Bank Donation Theme. We hope to have a holiday movie night for all GCCP members and friends. Please keep an eye out for notices in the bulletin, flyers, and here in Fishermen's News. Our prayerful thanks to all who help us share Christian Love to all peoples and continue to move towards a bright future, especially when we all circle around to support our missions' endeavors.

PW Rally Day: September 14, 2025, in Fellowship Hall. Coordinating Team (CT) & Circle members will be available to chat about what our purpose is as well as what we do and why you benefit from joining a Circle. We will have some items on display, some treats to enjoy, and our PW Booklet. **Everyone Please Visit Us!**

Fall Gathering: On Tuesday evening 10/7/2025 at 5:30 p.m. GCCP Presbyterian Women are hosting a lite supper (sandwiches/salads/desserts), followed by a presentation by Jon Dodd, the Founder of The Atlantic Shark Institute (ASI). The ASI is a Rhode Island based non-profit environmental organization dedicated to research and conservation of shark species and shark research. The ASI primarily focuses on biology, survival, and sustainability of sharks in the northeast.

We are inviting all members of our church family to join us for this event! If you would like to join us for the lite supper, we request a donation of \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family.

Tickets will be available in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings and at Circle meetings. Reservations for the lite supper need to be paid for by 10/5/2025.

If you are interested in the program only, it will begin at 7:00 p.m.

At this Gathering, instead of paper products, as described above, we are collecting feminine hygiene products (sanitary napkins, tampons, panty liners, sanitary wipes, etc.) to share with Amenity Aid.

Church World Service (CWS) KIDS KIT donations are now being accepted (Formerly known as the School Kit). This is a great time, as the back to school sales have started.

Here is the **NEW** list of needed items:

- 12 Colored Pencils
- Two-pocket folders
- Glue Stick
- Blunt-tip scissors (packaging removed)
- 70-page wide spiral-bound notebook
- 30-cm/12" ruler

- Hand-held pencil sharpener (packaging removed)
- Large eraser
- Six new, unsharpened pencils (bundled with a rubber band)
- Box of 24 crayons

Please leave donations on the blue table at the back of Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your continued support of the CWS mission!

Looking forward we will have and/or are in planning stages for these events and more:

- PW Circle Meetings, which vary in both times & places, begin September 16, 2025
- Fall Gathering, 10/7/2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- Our new Adventure – creating kits for Amenity Aid
- AED training for all who are interested, TBD
- ‘Community Event’ TBD, but perhaps October 18,
- Information for the crafty folks to help make hats and hearts for babies. Watch for details that will be shared via the church bulletin, Circles, and PW & GCCP websites.
- Holiday Movie Event, TBD
- ‘Christmas Gathering and Dinner’ Save the Date - December 2, 2025!

We invite all to check our hardcopy as well as our website information [Home | Presbyterian Women Greenwood Community Church \(square.site\)](#) or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PWGCCP> page. We also thank all of you for supporting us and our mission efforts.

“A circle of strength, founded on faith”

Artena Fairbairn for Presbyterian Women

STEWARDSHIP/INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

We have often discussed the work of Stewardship in terms of time, talent and treasure. That is certainly true in how stewardship is applied to giving by members of the congregation. But there is another way to think of the stewardship concept and that is the responsibility of those tasked with the safekeeping and application of those gifts...the Stewardship Committee.

First, there is a duty to PROVIDE. The Session is tasked with accomplishing the mission of the church as directed by the congregation. The gifts of the congregation support that mission and are carefully administered by the Stewardship Committee and the Treasurer. By careful investment and safekeeping, the funds supplied by the congregation are hopefully enhanced and provided to the various committees in support of their work.

Second, there is OPPORTUNITY. The Stewardship Committee carefully monitors investments and bank accounts to ensure we receive the best return on our investment. Lately we have reduced our loan interest by almost 2% by taking advantage of a reduced rate offered by UBS. Our loan balance has been reduced to approximately \$100k at present. This reduction in expenses provides a boost to the giving of the congregation. Also, our Treasurer applied for COVID funding through the IRS. This government program provided reimbursement funds to those businesses that kept their employees working through the COVID crisis. We qualified for that program, and the funds have been paid to us in an amount exceeding \$100k. This sort of careful attention allows Greenwood to reach out further with their mission goals, reduce expenses, and enhance growth.

Third, there is EMPLOYMENT of the funds the congregation supplies. The Stewardship Committee endeavors to write budgets that support the operation of the church, employment of the staff, and the accomplishment of the mission. Following our mission, we can/want/need to find the time, talent, and treasure to support our outreach to get the “Work” of the church accomplished.

Fourth there is MONITOR. The Stewardship Committee through the Investment Committee, and the treasurer keep careful track of our investments and gifts from the congregation to ensure they grow to better assist the various organizations and committees. We constantly seek investments and savings that complement our needs and enhance our outreach efforts.

Dennis Charpentier for Stewardship & Investment Committees

MUSIC MINISTRY

Thank you to all of those who enhanced our summer worship by providing special music. We were delighted to welcome the summer choir during the month of August and are grateful to Music Director Jim Morgan for making this happen!

The Bell Choir will resume rehearsals at 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays sometime in October. New members are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Director of Family Ministries Ginny Jacobs and watch the bulletin for specific details.



GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN
EIGHTY+ YEARS OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE
PART VII

We have reached the 1990's in our journey through the history of Greenwood Church, years that will be familiar to many more of our current members. It was a busy decade, so we will divide it into parts. I hope that as you read this, you will be inspired by the work of those who came before us and also see the many similarities with Greenwood Church today as we continue to carry out God's mission in what is culturally a very different time,

Entering the 1990's the new wing was being utilized, and many programs were thriving under the leadership of Director of Christian Education Jean Martin and Sunday School Superintendent Betty Mason. In 1993, there were about 200 children in the Toddler through Senior High Sunday School classes plus 14 babies in the crib room. They were taught by 24 teachers. For adults, 5 individuals led adult mini courses on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the new adult classroom on the second floor of the new wing and sessions led by Pastor Robert Peterson were offered on Sunday evenings and/or Tuesday mornings in the church parlor. Course offerings were listed in a flyer distributed in the fall, and there was also a Christian Ed Handbook describing all the programs for both children and adults.

The church was much bigger in those days. At the end of 1993, the clerk reported 632 members on the active roll and 80 on the inactive roll. Our Worship Committee chair, Jean Greco, might be amazed by the number of individuals participating in worship: 47 elders and deacons under chair Amy Monahan assisted in serving communion (one does not need to be actively serving on the board for this role), 5 deacons (chair Carol Snyder) assisted with communion preparation, 101 adults and families served as greeters (chair Marian Hudson), 33 members and 4 Advent families served as lectors at the 9:30 service (chair Kay Parkinson) and another 15 members and 4 Advent families served at the 11:00 service (chair Jackie Combs). 35 men and women served as ushers with Bruce Martin as usher liaison and Tom Farnsworth, Bill Fuerth, Bruce Martin, and Steve Otten as head ushers. Considering our much smaller congregation today, the percentage of people serving in these roles is not that different. The big difference is that the recruitment was divided over many people instead of falling to the Worship Committee chair as has been the case in the past year or so. Let's work to improve that!

Similarly, the membership in Presbyterian Women in 1993 was proportionately not that different from today. There were 115 women divided over 7 circles. In her annual report, PW Moderator Angie D'Albora wrote, "Our program and purpose can be divided into three categories: fellowship and growth in faith, out-reach in our community, and support for our local church and national PW organization. Circle meetings include these items each month as we enjoy our friendships, pray for God's help, and become involved in projects to help others." Some of their projects will sound familiar, too: knitting for "babies at risk" and quilt making, and outreach to the Warwick Shelter, The Medical Center, McAuley House, EBC House, Ronald McDonald House, and Prison Ministries. Their Lenten Bible study was on the book of James! And like today, looking to the new year they were hoping to "interest more women from our church family in our program."

Angie thanked the church staff, especially John Pickup, and wrote, "Thank you to our church family for their support of our special projects like the May Breakfast. Don't we have a lot to be thankful for here at Greenwood Church?" Let me add an editorial comment. One of the biggest things we have to be thankful for is Angie, who celebrated her 101st birthday on August 26. She has served Greenwood Church in countless ways. She has served as Sunday School superintendent, taught Sunday School into her 90's, and influenced generations of Greenwood children. She has served as an elder and a deacon. And again, even in her 90's she could be found climbing ladders to water her plants or hang decorations in Fellowship Hall.

Back in the 1990's what is now the Member Care Committee was two separate committees, Evangelism and Arrangements. As reported by chair Alan Jones, "The efforts of the Evangelism Committee were directed toward attracting new members. Lists of interested visitors were maintained, and a calling network was established. The Committee contacted frequent visitors to explore their interest level and invite them to become members."

Alan also explained that "A series of three orientation sessions was conducted to acquaint new members with the history and structure of the Presbyterian Church, the church service, and the history of Greenwood Community Church." He expressed gratitude to Dr. Peterson for his guidance in conducting the sessions and to the charter and longtime members for their contribution to the Greenwood history session. They also scheduled a "reunion" for the 1993 new members in the first quarter of 1994 as a follow-up to the orientation. He concluded, "As we approach the 50th Anniversary of Greenwood Church the committee's goal is to aggressively pursue new members, which are the future and lifeblood of a Christian congregation." Again, you will know some of the members of this committee: Harry Curran, Sue Desmond, Angie D'Albora, and Lois Yale.

The Arrangements Committee assisted with receptions for events like confirmation, new members, and the Christmas Program. They also planned a variety of activities. In 1993 these included a bus trip to Brookfield, MA with luncheon at a restaurant with a Ragtime show, and stops at antique shops, an apple orchard and a "beautiful Christmas Tree shop in an old barn." They also had a fall foliage trip to the Litchfield hills with stops for a luncheon and shopping (or at least browsing). They also sponsored the Christmas Caroling with a busload of 40 singers.

In 1994, Greenwood Church celebrated its 50th anniversary. The Church had celebrated several previous anniversaries and more recently has held celebrations to mark 60, 70, and 75 years, but none of these rivals the planning and activities for the 50th. Prior to the celebration, much planning was done to decide how this milestone

should be recognized. In typical Presbyterian fashion Committees were formed to plan the details of the year's events: 50th Anniversary Fund Drive, Charles Hachadorian (Ginny Jacobs' father), Banquet Arrangements: Evelyn Rae, Banquet Program: David Hilderley, Sr., Master of Ceremonies: Eric Robinson, Jubilee Choir Concert: Nancy Dickerman, Historian: Elaine Magyar.

In his 1993 Pastor's report, Dr. Peterson wrote, "1994 is our 50th year. Your Session has been planning for almost a year to find significant ways for us to celebrate this event. When you realize that Greenwood was the first new church development for Presbyterians in New England in 50 years, it is significant that this new church development became a strong and vibrant congregation, and today is one of the larger Presbyterian congregations in New England." He ended his Pastor's report with a statement that would have an enormous impact on the decade, writing, "In January of 1995 I will be 62 years old, and it is my intention to retire at that time. All good things must come to an end, and I consider the 26 years that I will have spent as your pastor as the best."

A major part of the celebration was the 50th Anniversary Fund Drive. A flyer for the occasion stated, "A 50th anniversary is a special time for a congregation. It marks off the building and continued success of the church. A fund drive will allow us to do three important things. First, it will provide the necessary funds for a celebration, which will have meaning for all of us. Second, it will allow us to complete some needed projects on our building. Third, it will allow us to share our celebration with others." The initial goal was to raise \$50,000: \$38,000 for the building projects, \$6,000 for the celebration, and \$6,000 to share with others. The first of the proposed building projects was to renovate the kitchen and upgrade the equipment to be able to handle the 125 people Fellowship Hall will accommodate. The second project was "a large well, lighted sign for the front of the church, so anyone driving by will know who we are." Third, was a project to construct "a driveway parallel to Main Avenue, so that cars, especially the vehicles necessary for weddings and funerals, can drive up to the front of the church, without having to stop on Main Avenue." With the celebration funds, they would be able to invite former pastors, local clergy, officers of the Presbytery, and others who had significantly contributed to Greenwood Church over the years to the anniversary celebration. Third, they wanted to set aside at least 10% of the funds collected to share with others, especially the Church of the Good Neighbor in Spanish Harlem in New York City.

A Fund Drive was carefully planned. In an April letter to the congregation, Bob Gungle, Chair of the 50th Anniversary Fund Drive, described the campaign and then wrote, "A special fund drive is just that, special. It is an offering given in addition to our regular contributions. Most of us will be able to contribute, but all of us will be able to help and to participate in this celebration. God has blessed us at Greenwood, and we are fortunate that we can grow in so many ways to serve Christ more fully. I am asking you to share my enthusiasm for our 50th anniversary and what this Church has been and can continue to be. Your prayers and cooperation will make this 50th year a fitting tribute to our charter members and a beacon pointing toward the future."

Dr. Peterson followed up with a letter that focused on and explained the details of how the drive would work, asking members to be home on Sunday, April 17, from 3 to 6 p.m. He also wrote, "I want you to know that I am enthusiastic about the fund drive and the things it will allow us to do in our 50th year. For me this celebration is particularly meaningful. It is a celebration of what has been accomplished in the past, and we do have much to celebrate. It is also about the strength we have today and the value of this church in the lives of over 400 families. It is also about the future, and the work of Christ through this church in the next 50 years. I feel particularly blessed that I have been able to serve you for so many years, and can see your commitment to Christ as it continues from generation to generation."

Besides these letters, the pledge drive was announced with a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, Minutes for Mission on Easter and the Sunday before the drive, a Fishermen's News article, and using the Zone system to call each family to remind them of the drive and ask them to be home between 3 and 6 p.m. on April 17. On the 17th a group of church women hosted a luncheon for the callers who then attended a training session before heading out for their visits between 3 and 6. The preliminary total pledged was announced immediately after they returned. Additional pledges were taken on Sunday, April 24, with another preliminary total announced, and the total for the Fund Drive was announced on Sunday, May 1.

The Drive was a success. Each week an update was given in the bulletin. For example, on Pentecost, May 22, the summary of pledge receipts through May 15, 1994, was \$74,249.60 pledged (week 20) and \$79,411.10 received. The summary of pledge receipts through October 30, 1994, was \$163,649.12 pledged (week 44) and \$160,782.06 received. Clearly the goal of \$50,000 was achieved. Over the next several years the kitchen was renovated. The sign and driveway projects took a bit longer, but you can see the results today. The celebration and mission goals were also accomplished. In the summer of 1994, a group of children and adults were hosted by Greenwood members in their homes and participated in Greenwood's Vacation Church School, and later a busload of Greenwood members visited the Church of the Good Neighbor in New York City.

The plans for the celebration are nicely summarized by choir member Nancy Powell Dickerman, daughter of Greenwood's first Music Director, Eleanor Powell, in a letter to former members of the choir.

"We are proud to announce that on the weekend of November 18-20, 1994, Greenwood Presbyterian will celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary. As a former member of the church choir, we would like to invite you to be a part of the celebration. The choir will present a program on the evening of Saturday, November 19th. This concert will include selections that will be sung by a massed choir (that's where you come in). We hope that a large number of our former choir members will be able to join us in this wonderful celebration.

“The Fiftieth Anniversary weekend will begin with a banquet and historical presentation on Friday, November 18th. On Saturday, the 19th, there will be a reunion and rehearsal at 2:30 p.m. for all members and former members of the choir. A reception with our former Pastors and former Choir Directors will be held at 4:00 p.m. A pot luck supper will take place at 5:30 p.m. and the concert will be at 7:00 p.m. The Fiftieth weekend will conclude with a special worship service on Sunday, November 20th.

“In preparation for our weekend celebration we are trying to reach every former choir member. If you know the address of anyone that used to sing with us, please let them know about the event. We will have two special rehearsals during the summer for our program. They will be held on Wednesday, July 13th, and Wednesday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join us for the entire concert, please attend these two rehearsals. Some of our regular fall rehearsals will also be used to prepare the music. If you can only join us on the weekend of the Anniversary you are invited to sing the numbers for the massed choir. You are invited to be part of our celebration even if you cannot sing. Come and see old friends and enjoy the music. All are invited. We need an appreciative audience. We hope that you will join in our celebration. Please indicate your interest on the form below and return it promptly to the church office. We need to know how much music to order.”

The Friday Evening of Celebration and Commemoration was held at the Johnson and Wales Hospitality Center on Narragansett Parkway in Cranston. It was attended by many current and former members from nearby and far away. Perhaps this description will bring back memories for some of our readers; for others, you can learn another aspect of our history and hear some familiar names.

The evening began with a social hour, and everyone enjoyed chatting with old friends and meeting new ones. Throughout the evening people had a wonderful time visiting with one another, sharing memories of the many ways they worked together to help get the church started and help it to flourish. Shown here are charter members Chelcie Bosland, Lydia Bragger, and Betty Hill; Director of Christian Education and one of the original Sunday School students, Jean Smith Martin, and Nancy Powell Dickerman and one of her sons chatting with Dr. Lilley.



At 7:30 everyone took their seats, received welcoming greetings from Pastor Bob Peterson, who then turned to program over to master of ceremonies Eric Robinson. Eric introduced the guests at the head table: the Moderator of the Presbytery of Southern New England, the Mayor of Warwick who brought greetings, former pastors, the Rev. John Sandlund and the Rev. Dr. Theodore Lilley, and the Rev. Peter Pedro and his wife Sonja from the Church of the Good Neighbor in Spanish Harlem. The adjacent photo shows the head table as Pastor Pedro addresses the group. About an hour later, as everyone was finishing dessert, Eric Robinson introduced Music Director Nancy Merritt who led everyone in singing “Come, Christians Join to Sing.” Then, Eric introduced the clergy from the other Rhode Island Presbyterian Churches and other Warwick Churches who were able to attend.



Eric then announced the beginning of the formal program of “Recognitions and Remembrances.” He introduced Elaine Magyar, “as daughter of Charter Member, Don Stedman, now a member of our Session,” who introduced Rev. Sandlund (center) and then Dr. Lilley (right) who each delivered brief remarks. After they spoke, Elaine thanked them and presented each with a framed reproduction of a painting of Greenwood Church by member Karl Rittman. She then read a letter from founding pastor the Rev. Richard McCarroll, who was unable to be present for the celebration.





Eric Robinson introduced Clerk of Session Bernie Vierstra for the recognition of Charter Members. Bernie asked them each to stand as their names were read and thanked them for their presence at the celebration as well as their many contributions to the church and then presented each with a copy of the framed print of the Church. Charter members present were Doris Bailey, Chelcie Bosland, Lydia Bragger, Myrtle Corbishley, Dorothy Darigan, Rachel Gilmartin, Joan Rubery Gardiner, Elizabeth Hill, Helen Howard, Mary Janson, Beverly Veatch Johnson, Warren Rubery, Donald Stedman, Florence Thompson, and Madelyn Wedlock. The only one of these charter members still living is Joan Gardiner who is still an active member of Greenwood

Church. Although she and her husband George are no longer able to regularly attend worship or events at Greenwood, they keep up with our activities online and through Fishermen’s News and were among the “over-ninety” members that participated in the June 22 meeting of the congregation via Zoom!

Eric Robinson then called on Dr. Peterson to make a special presentation to recognize one of Greenwood’s members for extraordinary service. Perhaps you will not be surprised to learn that Angie D’Albora was greeted by a standing ovation as she was presented with a copy of the print of the church.



Another memorable part of the evening were recollections for each of the five decades of the church offered by members of the congregation Doris Fahlman, 1944-1954; Angie D’Albora, 1954-1964; Dave Parkinson, 1964-1974; Bill Cheney, 1974-1984, and Ron Winde, 1984-1994. Eric thanked the presenters for sharing their personal memories, saying that after all the church is really remembered through the impact it has on each of us, our community and God’s people. What a wonderful reminder even today. Three of these folks are still members of Greenwood, Bill is a member of our choir, Doris is now 102 and Angie is 101! Amazing folks to be sure!



Nancy Merritt returned to lead everyone in singing, “*Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past.*” Eric Robinson thanked Mrs. Merritt and the choir for leading everyone in singing. He reminded everyone of the other weekend activities. Next would be an informal reception for Dr. Lilley and Mr. Sandlund in the parlor on Saturday from 4 – 5 p.m. Saturday evening at 7 p.m. there would be a special musical program. Sunday morning there would be a single worship service at 10:30 a.m. Greenwood’s pastor, the Rev. Dr. Robert Peterson offered closing remarks and a Benediction to finish up an evening long to be remembered.

The Jubilee Concert was amazing! Those who are familiar with Greenwood’s music program over the years and the planning described in Nancy Dickerman’s letter would lead one to expect nothing less. The flyer, shown here, gives you an idea of the participation. Participants included the Chancel Choir, The Chancel Handbell Choir, Former Organist/Choir Directors, Former Choir members, Guest Trumpeter, John Pellegrino, all led by Organist/Director Nancy Merritt, and Pastor Robert Peterson. Former Organists/Directors also present, listed in order of their service, were Helen Howard, Eleanor Powell, Hattie Bowser, Ruth Pelley (Janet Swanson’s mother and Krissy Golde and Carol Silva’s grandmother), and Mary Jane Ditzler, pictured below but not in that order).



GREENWOOD CHANCEL CHOIR

Presents

JUBILEE CONCERT

Celebrating

50 YEARS of PRAISE

Please Join Us

Hand bells

Organ

Brass

Saturday

November 19

7:00 p. m.

Greenwood Community Church

805 Main Avenue

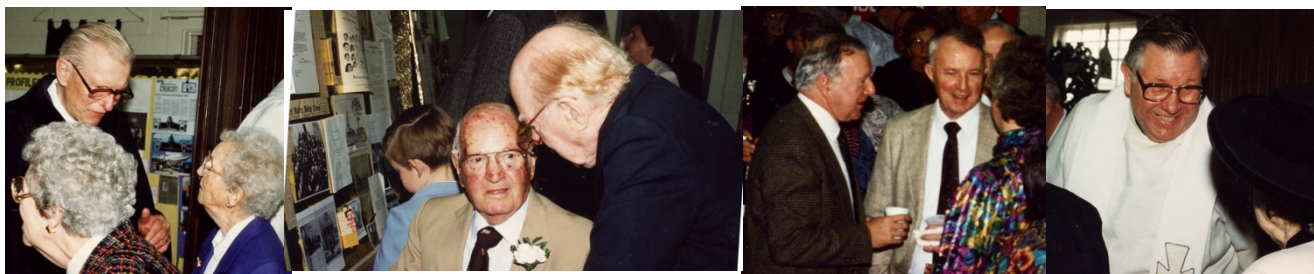
MANY FORMER CHOIR MEMBERS PARTICIPATING
Over 50 VOICES



As the choir sang “*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*,” many were filled with emotion as they remembered the journey Greenwood Church had travelled over the past fifty years, the friends they had made, those still with them, the many who were surely singing from Heaven as they, too, joined the celebration, and the personal prayers for the unknown future, not knowing what it would bring, but trusting that God would continue bless them, and keep them, and give them peace.

The Sunday worship service was a fitting culmination to the weekend celebration. The church was packed as the congregation gathered to praise the Lord and give thanks. The guest preacher was the Rev. Edward R. Danks, Pastor of the Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien, Connecticut, after serving in many churches along the east coast and serving in numerous leadership roles in Presbyteries and the General Assembly. His sermon was titled, “*Confessing the Creed in All Its Fullness*.”

After the service, there was a reception in Fellowship Hall, providing more opportunities for visiting with one another and the visiting pastors. Many displays were set up showing documents and photos telling the story of the past fifty years. Some photos are shown below. Left to right, Rev. Sandlund talking with charter member Mary Janson, Dr. Lilley visits with charter member Don Stedman, Eric Robinson chatting with Dave and Nancy Dickerman, Bob Peterson greets Lydia Bragger.



Jack Stewart and Harold Browne with Dr. Lilley, Lydia Bragger, founder of Greenwood’s Sunday School was still sharing with the children as her young friend joins her in looking at a photo album, Dr. Lilley shares some inspiring words with a future Clerk of Session,



If one needs a single word to describe the 50th anniversary celebration, it would be JOY! You can see it in all the faces, like those of our visiting pastors.



The spirit of the whole service is perhaps captured best in the Prayers of the People:

The Response to each petition was “*LORD MAY YOUR PRAISE NEVER DEPART FROM OUR LIPS.*”

“Almighty and everlasting God, your purposes are eternal and your love never fails. In your Son you have given us an eternal kingdom in which he will unite all things in heaven and on earth. We praise you, we glorify you, we give you thanks now and forever.

“For Jesus Christ, our great high priest who made the full and sufficient offering for our sins and the sins of the whole world, let us praise God.

“For God’s glorious kingdom given to us in love, for all his people in every age; for prophets, priests, apostles, and martyrs, let us Praise God.

“For the blessings of the covenant and God’s holy Word that we may be his people, know his will, and live for him and with him, let us Praise God. For the tasks of life; the call to service; the love of neighbor and friends, for every good deed that flows from head to heart, let us Praise God.

“Father, kindle a fire of hope in our hearts as we serve Jesus Christ. Help us to follow him, love him, serve him, and give glory to his name. We pray for every soul upon this earth that the gospel message will quicken faith and lead many to your eternal kingdom. Lord, make us witnesses to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ is King forever and ever.

“We give you thanks, Almighty God, for the leading of your Holy Spirit, who quickened faith in the hearts of all who have gathered and built this congregation. It is with thanksgiving in our hearts that we commemorate fifty years of worship and service to the King of Kings and we pray that we follow our King faithfully in years ahead.

“LORD GOD, WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF SALVATION. YOUR SON WON A VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH, CONQUERING THE GRAVE, AND HE HAS BROUGHT TO US THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE LIFTING OF BURDENS, AND THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE. WE HAIL HIM AS “LORD OF LORDS” AND “KING OF KINGS. OPEN OUR HEARTS THAT HE MAY REIGN OVER US, FOREVER. AMEN.”

The words of this prayer resonate today as we celebrate the women and men who have carried on the work of those before them as they seek to follow their King of Kings.

The Fiftieth Anniversary events marked not only a celebration of Greenwood’s founders and the growth of the church over the years, but also a time to look to the future, with excitement and uncertainty. In a few short months, Dr. Peterson would be retiring after twenty-six years as pastor. With the Long Range Plan, groundwork had been laid, the new wing had been constructed and was actively being used, an updated kitchen would soon join the improvements to facilities, and programs were thriving; but change would be coming. Along with the plans for the anniversary celebration, steps were already well underway for the time of transition when an interim pastor would be named, members would gather to discuss Greenwood’s past and present and goals for the future, the election of a Pastor Nominating Committee, and finally the calling of a new pastor. In the next issue we’ll look at these next steps in Greenwood’s history.

Elaine Stedman Magyar

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee has been hard at work reviewing resumes and qualifications to find the right candidate to serve as our Administrative Assistant. We first advertised through ZipRecruiter using its free app and locally in our church bulletin. We interviewed candidates but none were suitable for the position.

We then posted the job in the Warwick Beacon and its affiliated publications. Again, we screened and interviewed several individuals but found none suitable for the job.

In an effort to have someone answering phones and keeping up with the growing workload, we hired a temp secretary, Elizabeth Jones, from RITemps. This worked out fine, but in September Liz had to return to her full-time job with the school department.

We went back to ZipRecruiter and again reviewed several resumes and scheduled interviews. We were more successful this time. The Personnel Committee has recommended, and the Session has approved the appointment of Mary Phillips as our new Office Administrator. Mary lives in Cumberland, Rhode Island, and is a graduate of Rhode Island College with a degree in Computer Information Systems and Computer Science. Mary formerly worked at the State Street Corporation and as a tax preparer at M.S Aragao in Cumberland. Welcome Mary. We are happy to have you with us.

Additional help will come to the church office in the person of Suzanne Whiteside from RI Temps. Suzanne formerly worked at Bank of America as a Financial Analyst and Trust Administrative Associate. Suzanne will assist Pastor Dallas with several projects underway in the church office through mid-October.

Dennis Charpentier

For the Personnel Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

What has the Worship Committee been up to this summer? We have been grateful to all who have been volunteering during the summer months to serve as greeters, lectors, ushers, acolytes and to serve Communion the first Sunday of every month. We have been busy lining up those to serve and confirming their participation. We are also grateful to Choir members who have sung solos and duets and joined in to sing with other members of the choir and the congregation as part of our Summer Choir!

During the past year, Session recognized the need to work on updating our church website. A committee was formed with Pastor Dallas, Elaine Magyar, Barry Baxter and Jean Greco from Session volunteering to participate along with Ginny Jacobs, Michael Snyman, Brandon Philips and Cheryl Bowser. Jim Morgan also joined us in his capacity as Music Director. We have met three times during August. So far, we have decided, with Session approval, to start streaming our worship services on YouTube, in addition to Zoom and Facebook. We have defined our purpose to create a new website so that we clearly communicate who we are as a church in order to reach out to young people, to attract new people, to provide information on upcoming events and opportunities to watch, read or listen to sermons.

Michael Snyman has generously volunteered to update our current website until we hire a new website builder. We have identified information which needed to be removed, replaced or modified for its accuracy. This subcommittee is also investigating other church websites, identifying website components that are appealing, researching website designers, YouTube possibilities and content for our website redesign. We will be keeping Session updated as to our findings, costs and recommendations. Stay tuned for an exciting new website!

Jean Greco

Worship Committee Chair

MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

The Committee has been collaborating with Christian Ed, PW, and the Deacons on the plans for Rally Day. We all agreed that a Potluck luncheon would be a great way to start the year. We often did this back before the pandemic, and it was a lovely way to touch base with friends after the summer “break.” Bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share if you can, but please come even if you can’t contribute this time. There will be plenty for all! Beverages provided. We hope we will see both the “regulars” and perhaps some who finally decide it’s time to join us in person to experience the warmth of our Greenwood Church Community (just a slight switching of the usual word order.)

We are grateful for Committee Member Joan Eichenfeldt who created a new Welcome to Greenwood Church card that can be given by the Greeters or Ushers to those visiting the church. The Committee will also work on the much-needed updating of the information packets available to visitors.

We have also been working with the new Church Office Administrators to create a file with updated contact information that can then be used to create a church directory, various sorts of mailing lists, and more. We are very grateful to Liz Jones for getting this started in August and Mary Phillips and Suzanne Whiteside for their willingness to continue with the project.

THURSDAY NIGHT DINNERS

The return of our Thursday evening Family Dinners on September 11 was greeted with enthusiasm. That’s ‘Family’ as in Church Family; all ages are welcome! At our first dinner of the season, friends ranging in age from about 8 months to nonagenarians enjoyed seeing one another and getting caught up after the summer break while enjoying another of Susan Riel’s delicious dinners. Some even went back for seconds on the desserts! The carrot cake was a definite favorite. Don’t miss out! The dinners are held on Thursday evenings at 5:30 before choir rehearsal. Take a break from cooking and join us for great food and fellowship.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Why are missionaries important?

The primary purpose of Presbyterian missionary programs, particularly those in the Presbyterian Church (USA), is to spread the Christian message and promote God's justice by engaging in partnership with local communities worldwide to develop and support healthy, growing churches. These programs focus on discipleship, servant leader formation, and justice and reconciliation, extending through areas like compassion ministries, racial equity work, and world mission efforts. Presbyterian missionaries work in collaboration with global partners to serve the needs of diverse communities and foster mutual understanding and growth in faith.

Missionaries contribute to the social and economic development of communities through education, healthcare, and other forms of humanitarian aid. Missionary work fosters cultural exchange and understanding, enriching both the missionaries and the communities they serve.

The GCCP Mission Committee seeks to provide concrete ways for the members of our congregation to respond to God’s love in Christ through ministry and service in His name to the world beyond our own church.

Specifically, the Mission Committee:

Seeks ways to enhance and develop congregational awareness of the work of specifically Christian ministry beyond the walls of the Church at home and worldwide, both PC(USA) General Mission endeavors and those not related to our denomination.

Plans and supervises separate mission appeals and special mission offerings as authorized by Session.

Sets guidelines and standards in evaluating and selecting mission projects and causes for support by the church, in keeping with the overall mission of our church.

The Mission Committee is honored to be doing its part to serve our Lord. Our desire is for the congregation of Greenwood Community Church to share in this honor. We thank everyone so much for their support of Missions of Greenwood Community Church to help make this happen.

Please visit the “Missions” page on the GCCP website to see the updated list of our current supported missionaries/missions.

Deb Stacey
For the Mission Committee

CAUGHT IN THE NET/NOTES RECEIVED & SENT

Congratulations to Angie D’Albora who celebrated her 101st birthday on August 26!

The news from Florida is that Stephen Clark’s recovery is going well.

The Rev. Art Woolverton, who provided much needed continuity to Greenwood Church in the spring and summer of 2024 by serving as our supply pastor, has moved to Smyrna, Tennessee. He was sad to leave his New England friends, but his daughter and her family live in Smyrna, so he can see family regularly. As you may remember, the last news we had was when he had moved back to his apartment in Seekonk from the rehab center, and he was recovering slowly from his back surgery. Art now reports that his health is improving slightly and he is “getting around OK.” He is in an independent living apartment. Like some of you, he is no longer driving and was pleased to be able to give his car to his daughter for his grandson, a senior in high school, to him with reliable transportation.

Art has found a Presbyterian Church in Smyrna. Many of you can sympathize with his comment that the problem is that he could not hear the sermons. He’s looking into hearing aids. He said it was a blessing to lead in Sunday services at Greenwood and to meet so many fine people.

The Rev. Art Woolverton
700 Great Circle Apt 309
Smyrna, TN 37167-3637

Jon Farnsworth sends greetings and writes that he misses all his Greenwood friends, but the long ride from his home in Charlestown every week became too time consuming. He has been attending a church within walking distance at the end of his street.

Our prayers are with the members of our church family who have lost a dear family member over the past several months.

Artena Fairbairn shared the sad news that Audree, the smaller of her grandniece’s premature twins, passed away on August 3 and is now with her Heavenly Father.

Melinda DelCioppio’s mother passed away recently.

Margie Davis, a longtime friend of Greenwood Church, lost her brother George Davis who was a past member of the Greenwood Concert Choir, on August 3, 2025.

Several of our members have been hospitalized or have had surgery over the past several months. We are keeping them in our prayers as they continue their recovery.

Former member Fred Summers, the father of member Fred Fairbairn Summers, had a serious fall and broke his neck and back. He now lives in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Tom Harrop had a setback in his recovery from the shoulder surgery after his biking accident when the stitches got infected and he ended up in the hospital for a few days. He is now home and back on the slow road to recovery.

Dick Collins is recovering from a procedure done at RI Hospital.

We received the very sad news from Pastor Dallas on Thursday, September 11, that Jim Morgan, our Director of Music, suffered a severe stroke on Tuesday. His doctors did not expect him to recover, and he was placed in hospice care. On September 14, 2025, Jim passed away and is now a member of the heavenly choir. Please keep Jim and his family in your prayers.



***Happy Birthday to all with
September and October birthdays!
If your name is missing, share your birthday
information with the church office so we can get our records up to date.***



September

Laura Whaley 9/02
Matthew Demers 9/02
Cathy Insana 9/04
Laura Taylor 9/04
Tess Ruhren 9/07
Shereen Dietz 9/14
Robert Nordstrom 9/14
Beverly Carson 9/18
Sandra Ensey 9/20
Jesstin Jacobs 9/21
Joyce Devolve 9/23
Michael Whaley 9/25
Linda Martin 9/27
Bill Cheney 9/29



October

Anne Kenniston 10/13
Kathaleen Cheney 10/02
Maggie Hebert 10/15
Darroch Fairbairn Summers 10/17
Alyssa Jencks 10/06
Lori Pickup 10/18
Marge Allstrom 10/19
Karen Ruhren 10/06
***DORIS FAHLMAN 10/19**
Melissa Algozino 10/07
Gina Carson 10/22
Jean Greco 10/08
Adam Jones 10/24
Janice Dailey 10/10
Joyce Riccitelli 10/25
Barry Baxter 10/11
Richard LaBanca 10/28
Grace Seufert 10/29
Katherine Hebert 10/31

***Special Birthday Blessings to Doris Fahlman
102 years young on October 19!***

***With gratitude for all of her many contributions to Greenwood Church through the years.
Doris became a member on February 23, 1947!***

If you want to send Doris a card

MRS. DORIS B. FAHLMAN
ROBERTS HEALTH CENTER, INC.
25 ROBERTS WAY
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852

CHURCH INFORMATION UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their updated church information. In our attempts to contact members over the past months, we have discovered that much of the information we have is out of date. We would appreciate it if you could provide the information listed below, either by completing the form below and bringing it to church or emailing the information to officeadmin@gccp.org. This information will help us make an accurate new directory.

Name: (Please list all family members living in your household)

Mailing address: If you have different addresses for different seasons, please include that information.

Email addresses

Phone number (land line)

Phone numbers (cell) for each individual

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Presbyterian
805 Main Avenue
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886
401-737-1230
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