



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2016

Dear Members and Friends,



February

I wrote in this space **thirteen** years ago: "February also marks some important birthdays! On our kitchen calendar, **February 12** is marked **LINCOLN'S HANNAH'S BIRTHDAY**; the only native-born Rhode Islander in the Clark household celebrates six years of life on that date. And **February 22** is marked **WASHINGTON'S LYDIA'S BIRTHDAY**; her eleventh. (Stephen's April 13 birthday, his ninth, happens to coincide with the birthday of a third Rushmore depiction, Thomas Jefferson!)"

And I wrote in this space **seventeen (!)** years ago: "As we once again anticipate the loving celebration of Valentines' Day February 14, I'm reminded that February brings three additional loving celebrations to our household: The ninth anniversary of our marriage (Feb. 24), the seventh birthday of our eldest (Feb. 22), and the second birthday of our youngest (Feb 12)." Not included in these long-ago excerpts is another notable February celebration for the Clark family over the years ... my father's birthday, February 4. Born in 1933, this year would have been his 83rd birthday.

I want to thank everyone for the many (*and thoughtful!*) cards, notes and emails of condolences, the fruit basket and beautiful plant I found on my front doorstep, the prayers, the offers of help, and especially those who made the long journey to Pennsylvania to attend the funeral service. For those who didn't know, my Dad passed very unexpectedly and suddenly January 2, 2016; there was no warning, no hint that anything like this was imminent. I'm so very grateful I was able to visit with my parents the previous Sunday while my son so adequately filled the pulpit here; as I sat with my father in worship that Sunday in the Methodist church of my childhood (*my parents are charter members*), I had no way of knowing I was sitting with him in what would be his last service of worship while Mom sang in the choir (*as she had done just about every Sunday since 1965!*). Dad touched many lives, as several of you saw in his obituary ... I'm told the line for the calling hours preceding the service stretched far out into the parking lot and around the building at least twice; we had to delay the start of the funeral by nearly two hours. The service was a fitting tribute to a full life very well lived, and a glorious sendoff to the life to come. I ask your indulgence as I exercise a little pastoral/editorial prerogative on page 2 ... I've copied an article from the April '98 **Fishermen's News** by my late wife inspired by a birthday card she bought for Dad's 65th birthday, and included a clip from my hometown newspaper that ran last October; in honor of his birthday, I had planned to include it in this issue 'way back when I first got this copy from the **Daily Local**.

I write four days before our **72nd Annual Meeting**, grateful for another year of ministering to, and being ministered to by, such a caring, comforting, compassionate congregation as you. -- **Stephen L. Clark, Pastor**



THIS MONTH IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

christianed@gccp.org

Virginia Jacobs, Joann Rudolph, Kristine Swanson



HAPPY NEW YEAR! We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who assisted in making the weekly Advent celebrations so special, which helped provide for a beautiful Christmas season.

MITTEN TREE: Thank you to all who helped decorate our mitten tree with warm hats, mittens and scarves. They were delivered to South Providence Neighborhood Ministries and were greatly appreciated.

FOOD DRIVE: The Sunday School continues to collect canned and other non-perishable goods to benefit the West Bay Marketplace. We will receive donations through **February 7**. Just one can from each child each week will do much to help the less fortunate. We welcome our whole church family to participate! The collection box is on the stage in Fellowship Hall.



HEIFER COIN DRIVE: February 14 marks the first Sunday in Lent and the start of our annual coin drive for Heifer International! Please bring your PENNIES to worship for that day; the coin collection schedule is listed below. All funds raised through this collection will enable the Sunday School to purchase domestic animals for impoverished families around the world through Heifer International (www.heifer.org). The purchase of these animals will help feed families as well as generate income for them through the sale of eggs, cheese, milk, wool and other animal byproducts. The coin collection schedule is as follows:

FEBRUARY 14	Pennies
FEBRUARY 21	Nickels
FEBRUARY 28	Dimes
MARCH 6	Quarters
MARCH 13	Dollars

Thanks in advance for your contributions! May God continue to bless and grow our Sunday School program!

Notes from the Director of Family Ministries:



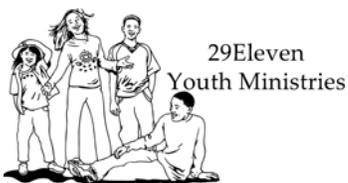
KINGS' KIDS continues on Sundays from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for children in grades 2 through 6. Come and bring a friend for music, snacks, games, crafts and more! For more information, please call Ginny Jacobs (392-0417). Thank you to all who donated to Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child demonstrates God's love to children in need worldwide by delivering gift-filled shoe boxes and the good news of Jesus Christ. **King's Kids will not meet February 14, the start of school vacation week.**

THE CHURCH FAMILY DINNER continues to meet Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Join us February 4th; and bring any pictures you'd like to scrapbook, as Mary Farnsworth will be scrapbooking with us! Bring your own food to eat (we may decide at a later date to turn it into a potluck and/or have other options). The goal of this group is to provide midweek fellowship for individuals or families who would like to have dinner with other members of our church family for company, support, encouragement, prayer, etc. We hope members of all ages will join us, as we all benefit from each other's wisdom and strength.



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT continues **February 5th**! Parents, bring your children to spend a fun Friday night with us from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Plan on this the first Friday of each month! We will enjoy fellowship, games, movies and fun together. The program is directed by DFM Virginia Jacobs who will be assisted by other adults and teens from 29 Eleven who have completed our child protection training. Drop your children off and head to a movie, dinner or just a little relaxation before the weekend knowing the kids are having a great time!

GREENWOOD GROUP: Save the date **MARCH 4th**. Parents' Night Out and the Greenwood Group will meet together. Parents have the choice to leave or stay for a time of fellowship and the movie "War Room." A CNN film critic observed "*Some might call 'War Room' a faith-based David versus the secular Goliaths in the entertainment industry.*"



29 ELEVEN YOUTH MINISTRIES began the new year on a great note with fellowship at the Petrucci home January 3. We enjoyed homemade calzones, a Yankee Swap and watched the Patriots lose to the Miami Dolphins (well, maybe that last part wasn't such a great note). We are currently working through a small book entitled "And God Spoke All These Words". This book focuses on the Ten Commandments, emphasizing that the commandments are God's gift to us and

really are not to be considered a burden but a delight. We just received confirmation that we will be attending **Fuge Camps** this summer at a brand new site located at **Liberty University** in Virginia. Last month 29 Eleven helped the Giving Tree ministry by wrapping presents, and group members continue to glorify God and to do what we can to be a beacon of light shining the Love of Christ in a tangible way! The students and leaders who make up this dynamic group have been helpful in many ways! I am so blessed to be a part of this group; God is so good! We look forward to seeing what God does this month as we continue to seek His will. If you are a middle or high school student, please join us on Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Eric McNeely (486-0015).

MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

As we begin the New Year, many of us have formally or informally made resolutions to strive to do a better job in some aspect of our lives. Perhaps this is also a good time to remind ourselves of what it means to be a church member and to seek to carry out our ministry to the best of our ability. In the latest edition of the **Book of Order**, Part II of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), section *G-1.0304 "The Ministry of Members"* describes the meaning of membership as follows:

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

- Proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- Taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- Lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- Studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- Supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- Demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- Responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- Living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- Working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- Participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
- Reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

We are very fortunate at Greenwood Church that so many of our members fulfill these commitments as they participate in the worship and programs of the church and bear witness to their faith in their families, workplace, and communities. But like everything else in life, there is always room for improvement. As we begin 2016, perhaps we can each review this list and consider "ways in which our own participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful."



SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, February 14: Since the earliest days of the church, the sharing of food at a common meal has been a celebration of the love Christians shared in Christ. Such "Agape Feasts" (ah-GAH-pay) are specifically mentioned at least twice in the New Testament and are also mentioned frequently in historical records. We are planning our own "Agape Feast" on Valentine's Day and invite any who care to do so to bring a "love" dish to the buffet table which reminds you of someone you have loved, or a recipe which may spark a loving memory, and we also encourage you to bring a brief

note explaining the history/significance of your food contribution! By the way, as with every potluck meal of the church, bringing a dish is NOT required; all are invited, welcome and encouraged to come!

Elaine Magyar, for the Member Care Committee

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



As most of you know, every year all members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) are asked to voluntarily contribute toward the administrative expenses of the governing bodies of our denomination via the "per capita apportionment." For the past fifteen or so years, a special envelope marked for this purpose has been included in the box of offering envelopes provided for all members of our church. The following excerpt/explanation comes from the minutes of the 1995 General Assembly:

"Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995)."

Each year the Stewardship Committee has asked you to consider using this special envelope to specially designate a gift based on the number of church members in your households to help fund these administrative/ecclesiastical expenses of the Presbytery of Southern New England, the Synod of the Northeast and the PC(USA) General Assembly. In 2012, the Session resolved:

"We will continue to ask and strongly encourage each member of our congregation to voluntarily contribute the total individual per capita annually defined by the Presbytery of Southern New England and will distribute the funds received on a monthly basis."

As a result of this 2012 decision, per capita is no longer funded from the general treasury of Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian; what is received from members of the congregation for this Special Offering is what is disbursed to the appropriate bodies, just as with other Special Offerings. The Stewardship Committee continues to ask all church members to consider covering their individual per capita apportionment. In the Presbytery of Southern New England, the recommended **2016 Per Capita** donation is **\$41.63** per individual member, of which **\$7.02** is designated for the General Assembly of the PC(USA), **\$4.00** for the Synod of the Northeast, and the remaining **\$30.61** for the Presbytery of Southern New England.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Dear friends,

Just as quickly as Christmastide came and went, the season of Lent will soon be upon us. Before we move ahead, I would like to briefly reflect upon the wonderful Advent and Christmas season we enjoyed, and thank those who helped make this season so special.



Thank you to the members of our choirs whose hard work and dedication enabled the music of this Christmas season to touch our hearts and draw us into the presence of the Holy Spirit as we again celebrated Jesus' birth. Thank you to those who traveled with us to Marble House in Newport for our music program's superb performance at the Holiday Duet Evening. Thank you to the large group of folks who joined us for our annual Christmas caroling bus trip around Warwick for a fun-as-always evening of Christmas cheer. Finally, a **TREMENDOUS** thank you to the nearly three hundred guests, forty-five performers, six ushers, two photographers, one accompanist, many chefs and decorators (and the Member Care Committee!) and everyone else who made our Christmas concert a rousing success. What a wonderful afternoon we enjoyed, and what a great start to our new community concert series (our next concert will be held on Sunday, June 5 at 5:00 pm, featuring works of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and Schubert; mark your calendars and invite your friends!).

Also fast approaching is our annual **Talent Show** under the expert direction of Rob Petrucci. There are many ways to be part of this event, scheduled for **Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19**. We will again offer a **Talent Show Chorus**, this year comprised of our entire Chancel Choir in addition to anyone else interested in joining us for this special performance. We will be singing a simple medley of fun Broadway hits, including selections from the musical "Annie" among others. Rehearsals will be held on **Wednesday, February 24 and Wednesday, March 16** from **8:00-8:30 PM**. If you are interested in joining us for this performance, please email me at jblack@gccp.org or call (401) 737-1230. No experience necessary!

Our Youth and Handbell choirs are also working on special pieces to perform. New this year, we are offering a **Talent Show Orchestra** for all ages. DFM Virginia Jacobs and I will be working with this group, and welcome anyone who has ever played an instrument to give it a try! The repertoire will be simple and fun, and we will work with players of all experience levels to make the performance rewarding for everyone. If you are interested, please sign up on the music board in Fellowship Hall so we can prepare materials in advance. We will hold a brief rehearsal/welcome meeting on **Sunday, February 7** in the Music Room right after the 10:30 worship service. Please bring a music stand if you have one; we will have a few available. Even if you haven't played in years, join us!



Meanwhile, we are busily preparing special music for **Ash Wednesday, the Sundays in Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday** and the **Sundays of Easter**. It is always so moving to experience this full narrative and worship experience; make a renewed effort to take in all this special season has to offer by participating fully in each of these services this year.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will move us to fuller understanding, reverence, and discipleship this Lenten season, and that our ministry of music may further this mission, touching all of our hearts and drawing us closer to our Lord and Savior.

Blessings,

/s/ John

John C. Black,
Director of Music and Choirs, Organist

39er's FEBRUARY GATHERING

Wednesday, February 17, at 11:30 a.m.
Top of the Bay in Oakland Beach

Menu

*Choice of Stuffed Chicken Breast or Baked Scrod
with Soup, Coffee or Tea, & Dessert*

Cost: \$15.00

Program in Fellowship Hall at 1:30 P.M.

**Church member and RI Audubon Society Senior Director of Conservation
Dr. Scott Ruhren will speak about the Mammals of Rhode Island**

If you need a ride or a reservation, please call Linda Gungle (828-7687).



WORSHIP COMMITTEE



This is my last month as Chairman of the Worship Committee and as an active Elder on the Session, as I have completed my sixth year (two terms) and will be stepping down as constitutionally required. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the army of Greenwood volunteers who so willingly give of their time and talent. Each month I sought to find eight lectors, eight communion servers and sixteen greeters to assist in worship. Thank you to all who have volunteered, and a special thanks to all who have said, "Ask me anytime." You are all blessings to this church. I encourage any and all who may have interest to help the new chair person by signing up on the chart in Fellowship Hall!

Harry Curran
Chair, Worship Committee

MISSION COMMITTEE

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world through the special mission offering of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This offering, traditionally collected during Lent, began in 1949 in response to the devastation of World War II, when, during a Saturday evening nationwide radio broadcast, Americans were asked to "give generously" to the offering the next morning in their churches. A remarkable variety of national leaders and celebrities gave their efforts to the broadcast, and more than 75,000 churches responded. This nationwide united effort by America's Christians had an importance far beyond the practical goal of fundraising; this joint program strengthened the vitally important relief and rehabilitation work of the churches overseas, and proved to all the world the great power generated when Christians unite in a common cause.



The Presbyterian Church (USA) uses funds received through OGHS to support disaster relief, refugee/immigration and development ministries throughout the world through the Presbyterian Hunger program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program and the Self Development of People program. Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a huge impact on people's lives. Whether gifts take the form of immediate relief to people experiencing crisis or partnerships with communities focused on long-term solutions to chronic problems, contributions are a powerful, tangible witness to Christ's healing love.

Portions of our offering to the One Great Hour of Sharing Program are also donated to other agencies we support who provide relief and assistance to those in need. Please use the One Great Hour of Sharing Envelope provided in your box of offering envelopes, or the special One Great Hour of Sharing pew envelopes for your contributions.

Look for more OGHS information to come in the weekly bulletin!



NEW MISSION OUTREACH FOR 2016: This year we will begin supporting a new mission agency, **Mercy Ships**. Mercy Ships is an international charity that was founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens. Their Mission statement is "To provide free healthcare and improve healthcare delivery systems in the poorest nations". Mercy Ships currently operates the largest non-governmental hospital ship in the world, providing free health care, community development projects, community health education, mental health programs, agriculture projects,

and palliative care (a multidisciplinary approach to specialized medical care) for terminally ill patients. Mercy Ships has operated in more than 57 developing nations and eighteen developed nations around the world, with a current focus on the countries of Africa. This agency brings hope and healing to the forgotten poor, mobilizing people and resources worldwide. The organization treats all patients without cost, and without regard to their religion, race or gender.



For more information, please go to www.mercyships.org. Also, this mission was featured nationwide on the news program **60 Minutes** in 2013; see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4rmbcU9Jxo> or simply search for "60 Minutes Mercy Ships".

The Mission Committee

Emmy Kmet, Michael Snyman, Deb Stacey, Jon Farnsworth, Patti Parkinson, Marilyn Jacobs, Amy Monahan, Shelley Monahan and Wilma Swanson

(Note from the pastor/editor: if you do happen to check out that 60 Minutes interview, you'll "meet" the family of my son's new special friend, whom I mentioned in my January 17 sermon ... the one he met in Israel this past summer and who visited with us last Thanksgiving! Carys' father is a skilled, talented and gracious maxillo-facial surgeon on board the ship, her mother is the chief administrator, and they've selflessly served nearly thirty years in this ministry of compassion, service and mercy)

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Thank you to everyone who helped with our Mini Bazaar, Christmas Dinner and Program on December 8! The Mini Bazaar was very successful and the profits will help to support our PW budget. Thank you to the Ways and Means Committee and the Circles for working on the Mini Bazaar and contributing items. Thanks also to all the men who prepared and served our delicious dinner. The ladies of Circles IV and V were our hostesses and prepared the punch, appetizers and cookies for the dinner. The program up in the sanctuary was presented by "The Voices of Christmas" which is a talented and entertaining group of acapella singers dressed in Victorian-inspired finery. We also listened to special readings and prayers by the Program Committee. Thank you, too, to the Program Committee for planning and preparing this lovely evening for all of us.

During the months of February and March, PW will be having its annual collection for the Gifts of Heart kits. We are all set with the items for the school kits collected in the Fall; thank you very much! For the health kits we need the following items and suggest you bring in the items according to the initial of your last name:

ABC	Hand Towels	DEF	Washcloths
GHI	Combs (large)	JKLMN	Nail Clippers
OPQR	Bar of Soap	STUVW	Toothbrushes

(You will notice no toothpaste; that's intentional). There will also be envelopes in the pews if you wish to make a donation to help with the shipping costs. The items will be packed and shipped in April. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support of this project!

The **Picasso Quilters** have started meeting again. Please check the bulletin for dates and times. They are in need of blankets (full to king size) and neckties to help them continue to make sleeping bags for the homeless. Please call either Sandy Olson (647-7034) or Betty Stacey (737-0717) for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD: Please mark your calendar for our **PW Spring Gathering** on **April 5** at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. This will be a brunch followed by a program. We will have more details to give you next month and tickets will be on sale at the March circle meetings. All of our church women are welcome to join us!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

"Come as a guest, leave as a friend"

Betty Mason for Presbyterian Women



*Good friends are like angels;
You don't have to see them to know they are there!*

'ROUND IN CIRCLES FOR FEBRUARY'

Circle I – February 23rd at 1 p.m. to continue the Bible study "Come to the Waters".

Circle II – February 9th at 12 noon in the parlor.

Circle III – February 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairbairn-Summers home.

Circle IV – February 9th at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor.

Circle V – February 4th at 11:30 a.m. in the 5/6 room for a brief meeting and then to help the MS Key Club with their meeting.

Circle VII – February 9th at 5:30 p.m. at Ritrovo's in East Greenwich for dinner.

Circle VIII (Picasso Quilters) – February 2ND and 16TH 1 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. .

Oval IX – no meeting planned.

If you have any questions about the Circles, please call me at 737-0717. Copies of current months' Circle Notes are always available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to come to any of the above meetings; you do not need to officially 'join a circle' to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletin insert for any last-minute changes.

Betty Stacey
Circle Coordinator

~~~ CAUGHT IN THE NET ~~~

**Hospitalized since the last issue:**

Evelyn Rae and Gabrielle Pisano, both hospitalized the third week of December.

**Sympathy is extended to:**

Laura Johnston, on the loss of her mother Laura Virginia Mumper Booth who passed away December 27; services were held December 31 at the Carpenter Jenks Funeral Home.

The family of Pastor Clark, on the sudden loss of his father, Alan Francis Clark, who passed away January 2.

The family of Carl Hopkins Kibbe, who unexpectedly and suddenly passed away January 14; services were held at the church January 19.

☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ~~~ NOTES RECEIVED ~~~☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the many prayers, cards and phone call during my recent illness. It is very comforting to have so many friends. I was very disappointed to have to leave the church choir during my illness, they performed beautifully during the concert, and I was very proud of them. With God's help, I will be with them again soon.

Thank you all very much,  
Bill Stock

Dear friends at Greenwood,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful cards, notes and phone calls I received over the holidays. I think of you and pray for you at Greenwood often. Wish I could actually be there. May God bless you this year in every way.

Love to you all,  
Nancy Merritt

Dear Greenwood Church Family

Thank you most sincerely for the Thanksgiving basket and card. God bless all of you.

Love in Christ,  
Lieselotte Morrill

Dear Greenwood Community Church

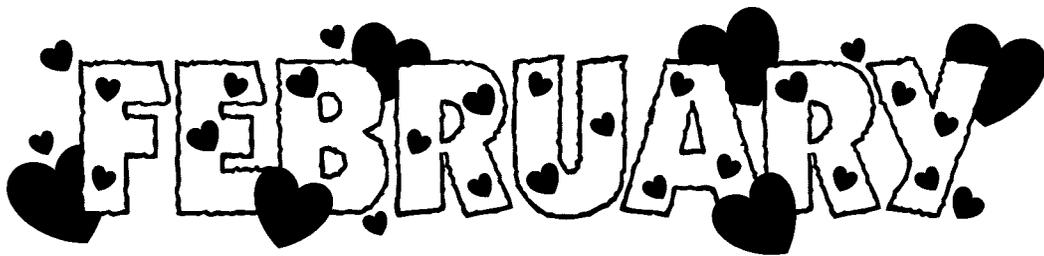
Thank you all for the many cookies, candy and generous gifts at Christmas time. I truly feel blessed by having the privilege to work with so many kind and wonderful people. You all have made me feel so welcomed. I would also like to say a very special thank you to Betty Mason for inviting me to the PW Christmas Dinner. The dinner and program that followed were a beautiful way to share an evening of fellowship with so many wonderful people of the Greenwood Church.

Thank you all so much,  
Carol Castergine

Dear 39ers' Friends of Greenwood Church,

Thank you so much for remembering me. I am doing better and hope to be out very soon. I am forever thankful for your friendship.

In Christian Love,  
Ginny Arling



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Dick Arling  
Don Baker  
Martha Beard  
Debbie Bryda  
Pat Charpentier  
Hannah Clark  
Lydia (Clark) Bennett  
Connor D'Albora  
Melissa D'Albora



Nicole D'Albora  
Amanda David  
Katie Demers  
Nancy Dickerman  
Sarah Fraser  
Helen Hausman  
Elaine Magyar  
Jay Martin  
Julia McCaffrey  
Landon Molling



Steve Nazareth  
Scott Paradise  
Mandy-Lynn Phillips  
Sherry Phillips  
Cathy Schobel  
Andrea Souza  
Fred Fairbairn Summers  
Al Williams

DEADLINE for March FISHERMEN'S NEWS is **February 14!**  
Please leave articles in the church office or e-mail to [ccastergine@gccp.org](mailto:ccastergine@gccp.org)  
(Please include Fishermen's News in the subject line.)