



# FISHERMEN'S NEWS

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

APRIL 2016

Dear Members and Friends,

I came across this posted on Facebook (*which, by the way, was followed by literally thousands of comments from people resonating with the content and introductory comment!*) and took the liberty of placing copies in the pews Easter Sunday, which is a day we usually see lots of children in worship, not a few of whom are visitors! We DID have a wonderful turnout of young children and families; I baked four dozen "Resurrection Rolls" which I shared during the children's message, but after the second service just ONE was left! (*two were eaten as object lessons ... and two "stayed dead", stuck in my muffin pan!*)

What a wonderfully glorious service of worship for so many children ... AND God's children of all ages ... to be part of! The bell, youth and chancel choirs were **all** at their inspiring best; Julia D'Antico's trumpet accompaniment (*and 9:00 offertory!*) wonderfully enhanced the already-triumphant hymns, Christian and John Black continued to exceed expectations with their superb musical accompaniment/leadership, and I'm hard pressed to remember a time I've ever heard a congregation sing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" so majestically!! (*And I got to hear and sing it twice!*) Thanks to all who took part, thanks to all who helped organize and support the 29Eleven brunch (*over \$300 was contributed in addition to contributed food and drink!*), and a HUGE thanks to Virginia Jacobs and crew of supportive volunteers in the nursery & Children's Church for handling such a crowd! Thanks, too, to all who contributed flowers to beautify our sanctuary and memorialize loved ones (*AND to the deacons who spent Saturday morning arranging them!*)

The events of Holy Week and the **Fourth Annual Talent Show Nights** which preceded it all served to help enhance and experience what it means to be a FAMILY of faith in Jesus Christ ... a cross-generational, mutually supportive, spiritually nurturing, faith enhancing, diversely gifted & talent encouraging FAMILY ... encouraging each other in patient love and constant support to bring Jesus and our Heavenly Father JOY! An excerpt from a note I received from one young father following the Good Friday service: "*I was proud my children were present for this special day. Not only did my son ask questions about Jesus and why they did this to Him but he also understood the slamming of the book at the end (though it made him jump ... haha!) was to symbolize His end. I later explained that Jesus' end is now our beginning of a new life. I'm so very happy my children understand what I couldn't at their age. I thank the Church and staff for that.*" (*ed. note: the book slam was the Strepitus ... if you don't know what the Strepitus is, well, come to Good Friday worship sometime! slc*)

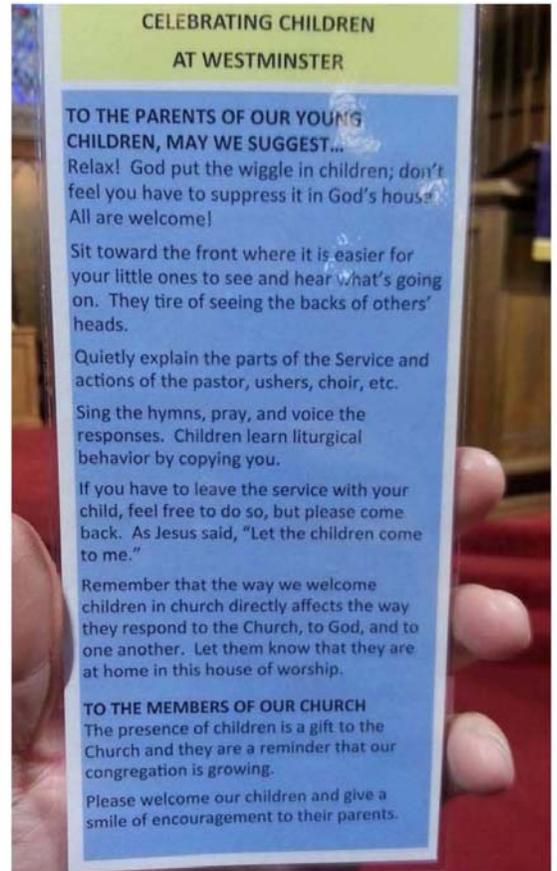
There's so much that can be said, but the pictures here (*and on page 3*) speak for themselves. What a memorable, glorious inspiring, encouraging, enjoyable and delightful ending to March 2016!

**Stephen L. Clark, Pastor**

(Found on Facebook March 11; awaiting permission to make our own!)

Posted by Tera Wolf: "I could write a book on my thoughts on this!! In a nutshell, I LOVE IT!! If children are not welcome in the church when they are a bother, then they won't bother to come when they are older!"

#childreninchurch #covenantchildren #proudtobepresbyterian



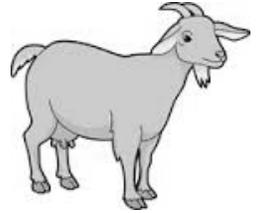
**THIS MONTH IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
**[christianed@gccp.org](mailto:christianed@gccp.org)**

**Virginia Jacobs, Joann Rudolph, Kristine Swanson**

The Sunday School program continues to be a very active and thriving part of our church family. As I write this article, preparations are under way for the Annual Talent Show and the Palm Sunday Procession with Hannah the Donkey, and the Heifer Coin Drive is coming to a close. The dedication and hard work of our teachers enable the Sunday School program to run smoothly and successfully. We are so grateful for your faithfulness in giving of your time, energy, talent and most importantly teaching the love of Christ to our young people. Thank you for serving and for being such rich blessings. The response to our Heifer Coin Drive has been wonderful this year. We appreciate your generous participation. The Sunday School children will decide which animal(s) to purchase from the money raised. It might be a cow, a goat, rabbits, chickens, a pig, or bees ... stay tuned!



Heifer Coin Drive



**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).



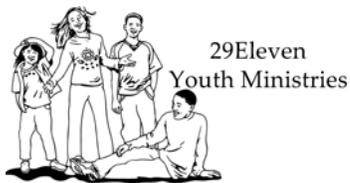
**THE CHURCH FAMILY DINNER** continues to meet Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. You are most welcome to join us any Wednesday. Bring your own food to eat. The goal of this group is to provide midweek fellowship for individuals or families who would like to have dinner with other members of our church family for company, support, encouragement, prayer, etc. We hope members of all ages will join us, as we all benefit from each other's fellowship, wisdom and strength.

**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT** continues **April 1!** 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 is assisted by other adults, as well as teens from 29Eleven, 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!



**CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING:** There will be training sessions held **Saturday April 2, 10:00 a.m.** and **Sunday April 3** immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. This class is for anyone who wishes to work with the young people of our congregation. More volunteers are needed and always welcome!! Thank you for serving.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!** Save the date for this year's VBS **July 18 - 22** with a special presentation during the worship service **Sunday, July 24.** Volunteers are needed for this very special week of **Cave Quest: Following the Light of Jesus.** See Director of Family Ministries Virginia Jacobs if interested in volunteering!!



**... AND FROM 29ELEVEN YOUTH MINISTRIES:** The youth fellowship would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued prayer and financial support. The Fourth Annual Talent Show was a huge success and we truly give God thanks, praise, and all the glory. God is so Good!!! We had enough individual and group performances to put together two completely different shows, so those who were able to attend both nights were doubly blessed! 29Eleven thanks all who did so much on so many different levels.

The month of March has been super busy. If I might use one word to concisely describe this month: **OVERWHELMED.** This is me talking, but frankly, I am sure others will relate. However, I am reminded in Scripture *"the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."* This Scripture encourages us to continue to walk in the spirit, be filled with the fruit of the spirit and live with the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Recently the youth fellowship was able to experience God in a powerful way through prayer stations we had arranged for our time of fellowship; some of these prayer stations included reflection, meditation and using their creativity to connect with our Lord and Savior. We as leaders worked really hard at trying to give the kids an opportunity to have a powerful encounter with God; Emmy Kmet, Patti Parkinson, and Wendy Petrucci continue to be a blessing to this group with their dedication to serving Christ in our youth ministry. I am thankful for them and can't wait to see what God has in store for us in the weeks to come.

In closing, I was incredibly blessed to see the teens put a powerful (and original) performance in the Talent Show's closing act, which symbolized how we all have things that distract and/or pull us away from God making it difficult for us to stay focused on Christ. The scene was performed to the song "Lead Me to the Cross," capturing the idea that Jesus always has His arms wide open ready to embrace us. No matter where we have come from, what we have done in our lives, we all can come to the Cross in our brokenness ... it is there that healing takes place and we understand that Salvation is in Christ Jesus. When we seek God in confession and repentance, the Lord shows His grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness and is waiting for each of us to return to Him. To God be the glory!

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric McNeely



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



The March meeting of the Stewardship Committee welcomed three new members, and with Chair and Board of Trustees President Dennis Charpentier still traveling, the newcomers were thankful Treasurer Barry Baxter was in attendance and was able to detail the Stewardship Committee's responsibilities.

In addition to monitoring the church's financial position, making recommendations, and in concert with the Investment Subcommittee insuring that our investment allocations align with the church's long-term goals, the Stewardship Committee also oversees the insurance program, liability and property, and also plans the church's annual budget.

The Memorial Endowment Fund was also a major topic during the committee meeting. Although a major portion of our church's expenses are paid through tithes, pledges and gifts, during the last fifteen years or so we've had to rely on earnings from the Memorial Endowment Fund to help pay for essential Church programs, and line of credit payments. The Endowment Fund's principal cannot be used without the congregation's acquiescence, but the earnings can be used whenever needed to help balance the budget.

The importance of this fund cannot be understated, and although some endowment gifts are guided by specificity, most are directed to the Memorial and Endowment Fund ... helping provide solid bedrock for Greenwood's long-term financial future. We encourage all members to consider remembering Greenwood Community Church by including a gift to the fund, today and/or when making end of life decisions.



Thank you!

For the Stewardship Committee:

Dennis Charpentier, Eric Robinson, Sam Koldyk, Jonathan Snowman, and Treasurer Barry Baxter.

## MUSIC PROGRAM

Dear friends,

Have you ever noticed the variety of terms used to refer to the gathering of church members? We commonly describe ourselves as a "congregation", a "church family", or a "community of faith", among others, each of which has a similar yet slightly distinct implication as to our role in corporate ministry. I have always liked to describe the church as "the Body of Christ", as Paul does in his letters to the Corinthians. When we strive to be part of the earthly Body of Christ, we focus our gatherings on strengthening ourselves and others in Christian love and nurturing a spirit of ministry and service to God's kingdom, and all of our activity becomes directed heavenward, our efforts are unified in service to God and we join together as the body of His children. This is especially true at such a wonderfully active church as Greenwood; it is our constant prayer that the many varied opportunities for fellowship and activity we offer will be vessels for ministry, focusing our efforts toward our ultimate goal of ministering in the name of Jesus, sharing in His love and working in His service.



We hope you will join us for another opportunity to gather as the Body of Christ, our next **Hymn Sing and Family Potluck** on **Saturday, April 23**. We will begin the evening with dinner at **5:00 pm** and will then gather around the piano to sing all of your favorite hymns. If you plan to come, please sign your name on the music board in Fellowship Hall to let us know what dish (main dish, side or dessert) you plan to share. Also, if you would like to request a hymn that is NOT in our hymnal, please let me know in advance so I can prepare copies to distribute. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (737-1230 or [jblack@gccp.org](mailto:jblack@gccp.org)). No musical experience required! In fact, this is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen hymn singing skills in a very casual, fun atmosphere.



Also, be sure to **save the date** for our **spring concert!** "Meisterwerke" will be performed on **Sunday, June 5** at **5:00 pm**, and will feature major works of famous German composers Bach, Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms, including large choral works, familiar hymn tunes and well-known classical melodies.

You may have noticed we are trying something new at the close of worship at the main service (10:30) and when we have a single service of worship. Instead of recessing down the aisle immediately after the benediction, the pastor and lector now remain standing on the chancel while the acolyte extinguishes the candles, and then return to their seats as the choir and congregation is seated for the postlude. Following the postlude, we will remain seated for a brief moment of silence while the pastor and lector recess to the narthex, and are then dismissed to enjoy fellowship hour. It is our hope this slight change in practice will conjoin the benediction with the postlude to create a strong sending forth, inspiring us to continue the praise and devotion we nurture in worship each week.



May this be our prayer for all aspects of the worship and activity of Greenwood Church.

Blessings,

John C. Black, Director of Music and Choirs, Organist  
Christian J. Black, Music Associate

### 39er's MARCH GATHERING

Wednesday, April 20 at 11:30 a.m.  
Top of the Bay in Oakland Beach



#### Menu

*Chicken Parmesan or Baked Scrod  
with Salad, Coffee or Tea, & Dessert*

**Cost: \$15.00**

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

April's gathering will feature a performance by singer Don Rittman.  
If you need a ride or a reservation, please call Linda Gungle (828-7687).

### MISSION COMMITTEE

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to this important offering. Your generosity will help alleviate hunger, rebuild lives after crises or catastrophes and work with communities to overcome oppression. Disasters come in all shapes and sizes and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program will be able to give hope and respond with love and compassion learned from our Lord's own example. You may continue to contribute through out April, by using the OGHS offering envelopes in the pews or in your box of offering envelopes.



**BRAZILIAN BARBECUE EXPERIENCE:** The Presbytery of Southern New England's **Presbyterian Immigrant Ministry** of the **Rev. Gerson Annunciato** (who has been our pulpit guest on a few occasions) is planning a fundraising dinner at the **Brazilian Grill** restaurant in **North Dartmouth, MA**. The dinner will take place Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The price is \$20.00 per person (the Mission Committee will cover half of the \$40.00 cost) and includes a full "Rodizio" (various cuts of beef, pork, lamb, chicken and sausage). Also included are unlimited visits to the salad bar with tempting salads, vegetables, cheeses, Brazilian hot dishes, coffee, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert. If interested in attending, please contact any Mission Committee member! Begun in August 2011 as a

specialized ministry of the Presbytery of Southern New England, the **Presbyterian Immigrant Ministry** was an outgrowth of the pastoral ministry of the Rev. Annunciato at Christ Is Life Presbyterian Church in Fall River, MA. In response to pleas for help from worried family members (*both in his congregation and abroad*), he began ministering to fellow Brazilians and other incarcerated immigrants by starting Bible study groups among them in the prisons. Through these, he has not only helped address their fears and needs but also helped them to minister to each other; he is now engaged in this ministry full time. The following Mission Statement is from the PIM website, [www.presbim.com](http://www.presbim.com): "*Whether you have experienced a broken immigration system firsthand, are an ally of those who have, or simply wish to learn more, you will find here Biblical resources to guide your prayers and the opportunity to help us directly impact hundreds of detained immigrants.*"

**RHODE ISLAND YOUNG LIFE:** Rhode Island Young Life is planning two fundraisers in April; for additional information, please see the flyers on the Mission bulletin board in Fellowship Hall: **FIRST:** Place an order with Young Life four times a year for Scrip Gift Cards; use these cards and the vendors give a percentage back to Young Life. Cards available are **Dunkin Donuts, Stop & Shop, Chile's, Chipotle, Panera Bread, Starbucks and Walmart**. You can make a difference with your everyday shopping and make every purchase mean more. Orders are due April 15<sup>th</sup>. **SECOND:** There will be a **Bowl-A-Thon Saturday, April 30** from 9:30 am until noon at the East Providence Lanes.



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

### **SOME MORE RANDOM CHURCH SIGNS ...**

*Give God what's right -- not what's left.*

*Man's way leads to a hopeless end -- God's way leads to an endless hope.*

*When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.*

*Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.*

*Many people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position*

*If your life stinks, we have a pew for you.*

*Romans 6:23 - "The Wages of Sin is Death" ... So Quit Before Payday.*

## NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Spring is finally here, and the Presbyterian Women will have their **Spring Gathering Tuesday April 5, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. This will be a soup and sandwich luncheon followed by a program. Our speaker will be Kristen Jansson who is a case worker for Westbay Community Action. Kristen will give us an overview of programs/services available through WBCA. Tickets are \$6.00 and are still available in the church office. Please remember to bring paper products and non-perishable food items that we may

donate to our local agencies for distribution. All women are welcome to attend this event!



Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions to our "Gifts of the Heart" project. The items will be packed up in mid April and we will then let you know how many kits we were able to send to Church World Service. Also, during April and May we will have Mother's Day cards available in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. The sale of these cards goes to help provide better health for women in need throughout the African continent. Donations of any amount for these cards will help with this cause. "Healthy Women = Healthy Families."



Our next big event is the annual **May Breakfast Saturday April 30, 2016 from 7:30-11:30 a.m.** We look forward to your participation in this event. We need men and women volunteers of all ages to help us make this a successful event. We all enjoy good Christian fellowship as we work together. There will be a Volunteer Sign Up chart in Fellowship Hall in April and also a chart to sign up to make apple pies, baked goods, and homemade candy. We also hope that you will invite your family and friends to come enjoy our delicious breakfast!

*"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 APRIL'

**Circle I** – April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1 p.m. to continue the Bible study "Come to the Waters".

**Circle II** – April 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the parlor. Bring a sandwich (dessert provided). Program at 1 p.m. Peg Swanson will display and talk about her art work.

**Circle III** – April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairbairn Summers home.

**Circle IV** – April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor.

**Circle V** – April 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in the old 5/6 room for a brief meeting and then to help the MS Key Club with their meeting.

**Circle VII** – April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Kindergarten Room to work on May baskets.

**Circle VIII** (Picasso Quilters) – no meetings scheduled for April.

**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:**

Lynn Chenel, Betty Stacey, Bill Stock, Fran Bonn

**Sympathy is extended to:**

Tracy Traficant on the loss of her brother, Charles Howard Diggle, who passed away March 10;  
(Charles was also the nephew of Peggy Phillips and cousin Cathy Maguire.)

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

*(The following three were posted on Facebook)*

**Denise Stacey Mair** – *Feeling blessed! March 8 6:22 am*

*My mom was released from RI Hospital yesterday afternoon! Unfortunately the house is not ready for her to return home.*

*Enter Saint Joan (Eichenfeldt)...a wonderful friend (and semi-retired nurse!) who has graciously opened her home to mom until I can get a bedroom set up on the first floor. Enter Eric (McNeely) and Jon (Farnsworth) who helped my husband Peter get all the furniture out of the second floor last night so the carpet folks can do their job today. Enter Nancy and Dave (Dickerman) who will wait at the house today for the crew who will measure for the new carpet.*

*All of this given freely, with a "whatever you need" attitude. My Greenwood Church family is the best and I would not trade them for anything!*

**Debra Stacey** *(posted response March 8 10:40 am)*

*Denise did not mention that she is doing all this arranging while Ray and I are on vacation in FL. When God handed out sisters, I got the A #1 best of the bunch...and I'm so blessed to belong to a church whose members are so caring and willing to help whenever and wherever they can!*

**Dale Nicholson** *posted on Greenwood Community Church FB page March 20 at 7:46 pm*

*Palm Sunday was such a special day for me today. I watched the donkey walking around Greenwood Community Church Presbyterian for the first time. That was followed by an amazing service led by Pastor Clark with fellowship afterwards, then off to take palms to my elderly family members, then a surprise visit with my cousin Jackie and a nursing home visit with my Auntie Dottie, dinner with my Uncle John and Auntie Jean, then home to do some work. How blessed can a girl be!*

*(Facebook needs a "Double-Like" response button for posts like the above! – Pastor Clark)*

\*\*\*

Dear Friends at Greenwood Church,

As long as there are always  
People just like you  
There's always special wishes  
And a special thank you, too!

The flowers were simply **"BEAUTIFUL!!"** Many thanks!

Lois-Belle Crankshaw

*Shalom, Dearest Rev. Clark, Jonathan, Emmy and the Missions Committee Members, and all our Greenwood Community Church Family,*

*Warm greetings to you in the abiding love and everlasting joy that abounds in our Lord Jesus!*

*We shall miss you this Good Friday -- May our Dear Lord grant you a deeply meaningful and revelatory Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. Indeed, the Lord has risen— giving us a hope and a future that can never fade away!*

*Thank you for so generously supporting us in prayer and giving these many years. Your sacrificial support truly sustains, strengthens and encourages us. It hasn't been an easy year here, with near daily terrorist attacks and some health challenges in Oded's family. But our Lord God is the stability of our times (Is 33:6). We trust that the Lord will use all of this sorrow and hardship to draw more souls into His Kingdom.*

*We hope that you will be blessed and encouraged to know how, through your faithful prayers and generous giving, the Good Lord is saving souls here in Israel. We pray the Lord's very best for you and all those you love. Have a most blessed Resurrection Sunday and Passover! May God's mercies be poured out upon Rhode Island and beyond, touching every area of our beloved New England!*

*With our love and thanksgiving always,*

*Oded & Bimini Cohen  
Omer, Israel (slightly edited for space ... slc)*

*Greetings Friends and Family,*

*Thank you everyone for being the wonderful disciples of Christ that you are. It is so amazing to see how richly God is blessing Greenwood and the great blessing that you all are. It was so great to see many of you at Christmas time when we were back in RI. We miss you all and wish we could visit more frequently. There is an open invitation to any and all who would like to visit us in Wisconsin. Please call ahead so we can make sure to have guest accommodations ready. We are really enjoying Wisconsin and have found a great church to be a part of. Please pray for the Peace United Methodist Church, to actively and boldly spread the gospel to our 52 % unchurched community here in Richland Center. We will continue to pray for Greenwood in all that you do and all that you are. May the Lord bless and keep each one of you. Keep fighting the good fight. Until we meet again. Peace and blessings!*

*Love*

*Jason, Karlyn and Aidan McNeely*