



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

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

MARCH 2016

Dear Members and Friends,



For the December Session meeting I noted, *"I've been impressed by just how much Christian Black -- a gifted, talented and versatile musician in her own right --- has voluntarily become an indispensable asset to our music ministry and a vital support to her brother, and I was all the more impressed by this both at December 15's (packed!) concert AND as I accompanied the choir to the Newport Marble House Mansion for their rehearsal and subsequent presentation the following Saturday. I hadn't known that Christian was at every choir rehearsal the prior 3-4 months working with the choir in preparation for these concerts, which also involved lengthy preparation/rehearsal of her own at home."*

Christian has voluntarily taken on significant responsibility in the music department since her brother's April 2015 "debut." She has provided prelude music for the 10:30 service each week, allowing our Director of Music some much-needed leeway in preparing musicians for that service *(she has also occasionally played preludes for the 9:00 service when John needed to prepare the Youth and/or Bell Choirs for that service, AND played a prelude before our very crowded Hanging of the Greens Service, allowing John to oversee the Chancel and Youth Choir processional)*. She served as regular accompanist to our first-ever Summer Music Program, providing invaluable support to a ministry that welcomed many first-time singers *(both church members AND new visitors attracted by the program)*. She has accompanied our Youth Choir, allowing them to stand closer to the congregation and benefit from having our Director of Music conduct from out front, and *(as mentioned above)* accompanied our entire Christmas concert, serving as a tremendous partner to our Director of Music in guiding 45 musicians through a full-length performance *(not to mention her extensive assistance in rehearsals for the months before the concert)*. In the occasional absence of the regular Sunday School pianist, she has provided musical leadership for the Christian Education worship gathering *(something the Director of Music can't do on a typical Sunday morning!)* and has led the Sunday School in musical presentations in worship. At age 14, Christian is also an accomplished clarinetist, plays the trumpet, trombone, euphonium, oboe, violin, and other instruments, is an honor student at Barrington High School, and in her spare time composes and arranges orchestral music.

In January, Session moved and approved formalizing our relationship with Christian by offering her the *(part-time)* position of **Music Associate**, serving as musical support staff under the Director of Music and the Pastor. The position entails the duties she's already been performing *(see above)*, allows a wider reach for our musical program in ways that just can't be accomplished by one person *(e.g., having a separate conductor and accompanist; having musical leadership in two places simultaneously on a Sunday morning; more adequately supporting the growing and varied number of volunteers in our music program)*, helps us secure the dependable services of another superbly talented and experienced musician, and allows us to *(again!)* nurture the gifts of "one of our own" *(she was baptized and confirmed at Greenwood)* who will undoubtedly go on to be a major blessing to the church(es) she will serve.

Stephen L. Clark, Pastor



Congrats to one of the US Army's newest Rangers, Sean Quigley! ... with Ranger brother Scott (Dad on left) at Ft. Benning, GA!

Newly ordained Wayne Meunier, Brandon Phillips, Jillian Jacobs, Sandy Olson, Jay David, Evelyn Murray ... Evelyn Murray (left) is now the first elder in our history to have two parents also ordained as elders at Greenwood!

PASTOR POST SCRIPT:

This letter (*slightly edited*) was submitted to the members of Session in January. The referenced materials in the final paragraphs aren't included here, but copies are readily available in the church office. There is **SO** much more I could write, but for now I just would like to add two additional/supplemental things about this letter.

(1) I underscore the last line of the first paragraph; multiple copies of my/our correspondence, every sermon I've preached, and all materials reviewed in our summer forums are readily available upon request, and I do not retract any of it. My/our denominational concerns remain serious and are far from being resolved.

(2) For me, at root this is about the integrity of my promises made in my ordination. I've cited three or four times in sermons a scene from the old classic movie "A Man for All Seasons," in which Thomas More explains to his daughter why he cannot go back on a promise he made, even though it will probably cost his life.

"When a man makes a promise, Meg, he puts himself in his own hands, like water. And if he opens up his fingers to let it out, he need not hope to find himself again."

For Thomas More, a man is only as good as the promises he keeps. While attending the 2013 Fellowship of Presbyterians conference in Orlando, Florida during which the announcement was made that a new denomination was being formed (*"The Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians"*), a clergy colleague from (*I think*) North Carolina in our small group shook his head and with a bemused look made the somewhat cryptic comment in an inimitable slow Southern drawl, *"So ... we gotta break a covenant to form a new one?"* Obviously, troubled as we were by the deplorable denominational difficulties (*which was why thousands of us were at this conference in the first place*), not all of us were entirely on board with this development (*and as alluded in the letter above, I find there is much in this new denomination that is, or will be, proving problematic*). Lewis Smedes wrote, *"We as people are most like God when we forgive, and when we keep a promise."*

Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian

805 Main Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island, 02886 Tel. (401) 737-1230; Fax (401) 739-8067

The Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Clark, Pastor

January 20, 2016

Dear Session members,

This is a letter I've been meaning to write since at least last December, but the busyness of the season and the unexpected loss of my father put many things on back burners. Although many paragraphs and ideas have been "written" and re-written a thousand times in my head these past months, I have decided it's best to keep things simple and direct, as well as consistent with what I've spoken from the pulpit and written in correspondence, every word of which I still stand by.

It's perhaps best expressed in an excerpt from my November 5, 2006 sermon based on Ruth 1:

Some are asking, especially after the last General Assembly, 'Can we faithfully stay in the PCUSA?' Some Presbyterian congregations right here in Rhode Island are asking that question. However, that really is the wrong question. The question to ask is not, "Can we faithfully stay?" The question to ask is, "Can we faithfully leave?" Can we leave without breaking faith? The short answer: we have all made promises of fidelity and faithfulness when we joined the church ... so we really can't leave without breaking faith at some level. It's almost another sermon, but I'm just amazed at times by how lightly some people make and break promises, especially those made in the presence of God and His people.

The longer answer is that it is this question "Can we faithfully leave?" which enables us to adequately consider the possibility that God has called us to be where we are. As Presbyterians, we value the emphasis of our tradition on the sovereignty of God and the call of God. It is not an accident that we happen to be Presbyterian now, however that came to be. So, what if God has sovereignly called us to be where we are, as the faithful Mordecai said to his young cousin Esther, "for such a time as this"? If indeed that is the case, then we can only leave if we are clearly called away from our post by God. Until He clearly calls us away, I believe we are to stay put, to be a witness right where we are. If we leave where God has placed us, we take a huge risk ... the risk of removing ourselves from the place of God's blessing.

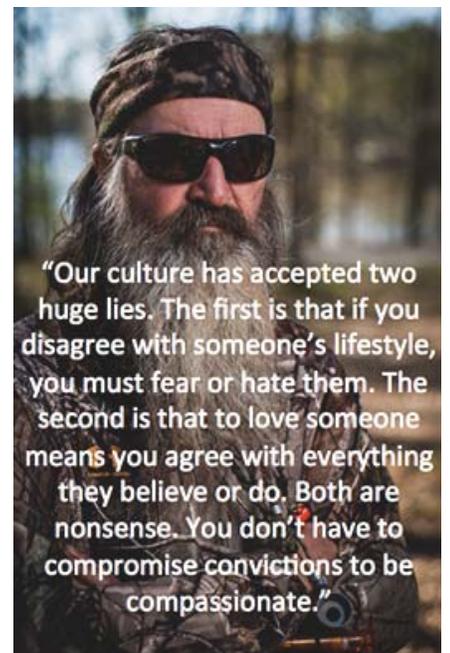
Presbyterians for Renewal posted an article by a PC(USA) pastor in California, which I quote in part: "We cannot leave merely because we're tired. Many times in Christian history issues of the greatest weight took decades, even centuries, to resolve. So we may say, 'Dear God, I've been part of the struggle for biblical faithfulness in sexual ethics for thirty years.' And God may say, 'Yes, and I want you to do it for another thirty years.'" Pastor Greene goes on to write that just because we may be more comfortable elsewhere, we cannot faithfully leave – not if God has called us to be here. We cannot leave merely because the church is unfaithful. Even that doesn't trump God's call. Pastor Greene writes, "Remember the prophets of old. I think especially of Jeremiah. He bore faithful witness to God's truth for a very long time, and for much of his ministry his message was met with hostility. One tradition has it that he was finally stoned to death by his own people, who got tired of listening to him. He was called by the sovereign God to bear long and faithful witness to an unfaithful people in a hostile environment. Today we revere the name of Jeremiah for his faithfulness."

I have more or less re-embraced my original conviction that I've been called to be faithful to my ordination vows and stay put in this denomination until the day I am either kicked out OR am personally compelled to sacrifice conscience and conviction. What I strongly believe to be the unfaithfulness of others does not *require* me to be unfaithful to promises I have made, although it can be conscientiously argued that unfaithfulness of the other can release me from my obligations. While it isn't a perfect analogy, it can be biblically argued that unfaithfulness, abuse and/or abandonment are grounds *allowing* for divorce in marriage, however, such things do not *require* divorce. The faithful partner can *choose* to stay and try to make things work, although he/she is not *compelled* to do so.

Also, I have made inquiries to other denominations and their representatives; I'll include one such correspondence in the addendum ... as you can read, it is likely I would *not* be welcomed into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). Nor would I be welcomed into the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA) due to my beliefs regarding women in leadership, and for reasons too innumerable to explain in detail here, I am not convinced the new denomination, the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO), is a viable and/or stable alternative for either me or our congregation.

Also attached is an article I shared with the Session in 2008 ("Embrace the Frog"), and have decided to re-embrace (pun intended) the convictions of that author. Again, I still stand by everything I have written (*a summary PDF packet will be included in this emailing for those who may not have access to it*), and will continue to press all I can to return our denomination to constitutional integrity and its theological heritage.

Stephen L. Clark



From a 1996 Christianity Today interview with the late John Stott, an English Christian leader and Anglican cleric who was noted as a leader of the worldwide Evangelical movement: "There are three options for evangelicals in mainline denominations. The two extremes are to get out or cave in. The third is to stay in without giving in. The extremes are actually the easy options. Anybody can cave in: that's the way of the coward, the way of the feeble mind. To cave in is to stay in but to fail to hold on to your distinctive evangelicalism. You just compromise. To get out is to say, 'I can't bear this constant argument and controversy any longer.' That also is an easy option. I know people have done it and suffered because they have given up a secure job and salary; but it's an easy option psychologically. The difficult thing is to stay and refuse to give in, because then you're always in tension with people with whom you don't altogether agree, and that is painful."

THIS MONTH IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

christianed@gccp.org

Virginia Jacobs, Joann Rudolph, Kristine Swanson



Thank you to Sunday School students and families for your generous donations to our annual Food Drive. We also appreciate those who placed food offerings in the box in Fellowship Hall. Westbay Marketplace in Warwick will be so happy to receive our contributions! A special thank you to Jon Farnsworth who graciously offered to delivered the donation of food for us.

Our Lenten Coin Drive is well underway! All funds raised through this collection will enable the Sunday School to purchase domestic animals for impoverished families worldwide 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. Last year, our church was able to give \$1000 to this the important work; we can choose to send a heifer, sheep, goats, pigs, bees, rabbits or chickens. Thank you in advance for your help with this project.

***** **February 28, Dimes. March 6, Quarters. March 13, Dollars.** *****



Heifer Coin Drive

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19: TALENT SHOW DINNER THEATER! Greenwood Church is bursting with talent of all kinds! This is your chance to share your talent and be part of a fun, exciting show. The proceeds from the Talent Show benefit the summer mission trip of 29 Eleven Youth Fellowship.

Sunday, March 20: PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL! (ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.) All are invited to join us as Hannah the Donkey and Pastor Clark lead our annual Palm Sunday processional. ALL are invited to gather in the parking lot behind the church at **9:00 AM** to sing, distribute palms and assemble for the processional, and we will proceed to walk, sing and wave our palms on our way to go worship together!

Saturday, March 26: Easter Egg Hunt will be held **11:00 AM – 1:00 PM!** Come and bring a friend to our fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt! We will have pizza, crafts, games, pictures with the Easter Bunny and, of course, egg hunting. Please bring your basket!

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). We are practicing our acts for the talents show so please come to be part of this fun!!!

THE CHURCH FAMILY DINNER continues to meet Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Join us **March 2** and bring any pictures you'd like to scrapbook, as Mary Farnsworth will be scrapbooking with us! 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 **March 4th**. 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 will meet **MARCH 4th** @ 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and the movie "War Room." A CNN film critic wrote "*Some might call 'War Room' a faith-based David versus the secular Goliaths in the entertainment industry.*"



... AND FROM 29ELEVEN YOUTH MINISTRIES: The youth fellowship continues to be a major blessing in my life. I am very grateful to God for the individuals who make up this dynamic group. Our response is to praise God through all seasons of life; the good, the bad, the trials, the tribulations and the struggles. **Casting Crowns** sings a song called "Praise You in this Storm" and I feel has been an anthem for us as a group. 29Eleven is God's youth group and He has many plans

in store for us. The storms of life may have pushed us down, but our God has picked us up and provides the means necessary to move forward. I was very blessed as we had an opportunity to go duckpin bowling recently. Meadowbrook Lanes didn't know what to think as we arrived in the alley ready to take down all those pins! Well, maybe not *all* of them! Nevertheless we had a good time of fellowship, as well as pizza, water, soda and wearing those goofy looking shoes! In addition, we had a Share and Prayer night at youth group followed by a Make Your Own Sundae party! Yum yum! The youth group is working on some skits for the upcoming Talent Show, one that you will not want to miss! The students will have tickets available to purchase the next few Sundays and we sincerely appreciate your support in advance! Lastly, I would very much appreciate prayer for our youth group as we continue to pursue Christ in a growing relationship. This is not easy and we all can get distracted along the way with what the world will throw at us. Please pray for strength, encouragement, open doors, opportunities, and glorifying God in all that we do. Thanks so much for your continued support of 29:Eleven youth ministries.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric McNeely

MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

Dear Friends,

Officially, the New Year is welcomed and celebrated on January 1. For teachers or those with children in school or college, September or late August marks the beginning of the "new year." The Christian Church marks the beginning of a new year with the first Sunday of Advent. But, in a practical sense, at Greenwood Church the new year begins in February and March. At the end of January we elect new elders and deacons, who are ordained and installed in February. Then in March we begin a new year of work in our committees. New committee members are needed to help to carry out all the programs of the church.



Have you ever wished you could meet more people in the church or find a way to help out in even a small way? Volunteering to serve on a committee is a great way to do just that! Each committee is comprised of one or more elders, a deacon, and, ideally, several members of the congregation not currently serving on one of the boards. The committees normally meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., except in the summer. In some circumstances, individuals have served on a committee and helped accomplish its goals even when they were not able to make it to these monthly meetings; it depends much on the nature of the work of the particular committee.

You may be wondering why the Member Care Committee is putting in a plug for you to serve on any committee, not just Member Care. Of course we would love to have additional members to share in our work, but we also know that the best way to "care" for our Greenwood Church family is to have a vibrant congregation that is engaged in the life of the church. Committee membership is an excellent way to get more involved and to share your talents with your church family. Try it!



If you want more information on what the Committees do or want to volunteer, contact one of the elders or deacons listed below:

- Building and Grounds:** Jay David and Evelyn Murray
- Christian Education:** Joann Rudolph and Krissy Swanson
- Member Care:** Elaine Magyar and Walter Sullivan
- Mission:** Emmy Kmet and Michael Snyman
- Stewardship:** Dennis Charpentier, Eric Robinson, and Barry Baxter
- Worship:** Donald Sorgel and Wayne Meunier

In addition, the Deacons are always eager to have more volunteers to help with coffee hour. Check with moderator Eric McNeely if you can help, even by volunteering to provide baked goods occasionally. It would be much appreciated!

Elaine Magyar, for the Member Care Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE



My name is Wayne A. Meunier and I am a newly ordained deacon serving on the Worship Committee. I have the pleasure of serving with our new Chairman of the Worship Committee, Don Sorgel. As we start our new roles this year we wish to thank Harry Curran for his years of service and dedication as the outgoing Worship Committee Chairman.



Each week Don and I will be actively seeking those who wish to serve God by taking an active role in our worship services. The volunteer positions available on a weekly basis are: Lectors,

Greeters and Acolytes (ideal for younger members of our church). If you are interested in serving please feel free to contact me at my home at 737-0480, and/or I can meet with you to discuss your interest and get you started in serving God and our congregation. For those who have volunteered in the past, please continue to sign up on the Worship Signup Schedules posted in Fellowship Hall. We encourage all deacons and elders to sign up to serve communion in the upcoming months.



Our Worship Committee meets weekly before and after the Sunday services, so if you have any suggestions and or comments, Don and I would love to hear from you. In the coming months we will be offering training and guidance programs for all interested in serving during worship and for those who may just want to brush up on their skills. Thank you in advance for your past and present service to our Lord and members of our church. See you at worship!



Wayne A. Meunier, Committee Member
(Don Sorgel, Chair, Worship Committee)

MUSIC PROGRAM

Dear friends,

As we heard on Ash Wednesday when we were called to embark upon the season of Lent, "...every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery." (*from the Book of Common Worship*).



Lent is, at some level, a season of *waiting* for the pinnacle of the liturgical year to arrive. But there is so much to encounter during this period; no matter how well we know the Gospel, a true celebration of the resurrection would be incomplete without first following Jesus through His fasting, temptation, suffering and death. Lent also offers an opportunity for tremendous spiritual growth; this period of forty days and nights calls us to reflection and prayer.

Let us make it our continued prayer that God may speak to us in new ways this Lenten season and Eastertide. May He remind us of what is true and what is important. And, as is always the prayer of our ministry of music, may the product of our corporate worship be a strengthening of faith and reverence, a deepening of understanding, and a rejuvenation of our vigor to serve the kingdom of God in our daily lives.

NEWS:

The Member Care Committee and I are working on another **Hymn Sing and Family Potluck** for **Saturday, April 23 at 5:00 pm**. Those who gathered for our last Hymn Sing (over two hours long!) enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship and music; please join us with your favorite dish and favorite hymns! No musical experience required.



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.

Another piece of exciting news is the hiring of **Christian Black** as **Music Associate**. Her main duties will involve continuing to serve as accompanist for our choirs and soloists and providing prelude music for our main service of worship. More information may be found elsewhere in this newsletter. It is wonderful to observe the tremendous growth our music program is experiencing; with record membership in our choirs, increased participation of many talented soloists, and a strong focus of ministry; I continue to be amazed by the ways in which God blesses us. Needless to say, I am delighted to officially add Christian's gifts and talents to our music staff as part of this long-term building and growth.

Thank YOU for making this community of faith so special, and thank GOD for all He is and does for us!

Blessings,

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

39er's MARCH GATHERING

Wednesday, March 16, at 11:30 a.m.
Top of the Bay in Oakland Beach



Menu

*Corned Beef & Cabbage or Baked Scrod
with Salad, Coffee or Tea, & Dessert*

Cost: \$15.00

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

George Whitley will speak about the production of Johnny Cakes

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

RANDOM CHURCH SIGNS:

Wisdom has two parts - 1) Having a lot to say, and 2) Not saying it.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

A clean conscience makes a soft pillow.

Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.

Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.

Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.

Give Satan an inch and he'll be your ruler.

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.

Please look for more OGHS information in the March weekly bulletins!



ANOTHER NEW MISSION OUTREACH FOR 2016: This year we will begin supporting another new missionary couple, **Ruth and Chuck Fox** of International Ministries. The Foxes were our mission guests last October. They are long-term missionaries who work with International Ministries, and are based in Northern Thailand. Ruth was instrumental in the founding, organization and administration of the **Chiang Rai International Christian School (CRICS)**. They work with the Akha hill tribe people in Northern Thailand, an ethnic minority group

who have migrated from China through Burma into Thailand. The Fox's ministry focuses on evangelism, pastoral care, education, leadership development and women's ministries. Chuck focuses on pastoral training, evangelism and development, including micro-enterprise, drug rehabilitation and building projects. Ruth works with CRICS as a teacher, in volunteer services and in development. She also ministers to Akha women as a consultant to Akha craft programs and women's ministries, and she helps children receive an education through STEP funds (*scholarship funds for children's education*). or more information, please visit www.internationalministries.org/teams/65-fox



BRAZILIAN BARBECUE EXPERIENCE: The Presbytery of Southern New England's **Presbyterian Immigrant Ministry** of 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 30th at 5:30 pm. The price is \$40.00 per person 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!

The Mission Committee

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

AUGUSTINE'S PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION (400 A.D.):

Disturbers are to be rebuked, the low-spirited encouraged, the infirm supported,
the objectors confuted, the treacherous guarded against, the unskilled taught,
the lazy aroused, the contentious restrained, the haughty repressed,
the litigants pacified, the poor relieved, the oppressed liberated,
the good approved, the evil borne with,
And all are to be loved.

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Here we are in the midst of a cold and snowy winter. By the time that you get this letter Lent will have begun and we will be looking forward to Palm Sunday and Easter. The "Gifts of Heart" program is under way. The donation box for the Health Kit items is on the stage in fellowship hall. Thank you all for your continued support of this project.



The Picasso Quilters are starting their seventh year of making sleeping bags for the homeless. They have made 599 of the sleeping bags so far. They have an ongoing need for blankets (cotton or acrylic -no wool)-double, queen or king. If you would like to join them in making the sleeping bags please call either Sandy Olson, 647-7034, or Betty Stacey, 737-0717. The meeting dates are listed in the Sunday bulletin.

Our Spring Gathering will be a Soup and Salad Luncheon on Tuesday April 5th at 11:00 a.m. The program will be presented by Kristen Jansson who is a Case Manager at West Bay Community Action. The tickets are \$6.00 and will be available at March Circle meetings and at Coffee Hour on March 13 and 20. All our church women are welcome to attend this event! Please remember that we will be collecting paper products and non-perishable food items to be given to our local agencies for distribution.



"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** – March 22nd at 1 p.m. to continue the Bible study "Come to the Waters".
- Circle II** – March 22nd at 12 noon in the parlor. Bring a sandwich (dessert provided). Program at 1 p.m. will be a book review
- Circle III** – March 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairbairn Summers home.
- Circle IV** – March 22nd at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor.
- Circle V** – March 3rd 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** – March 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Kindergarten Room to work on bazaar projects.
- Circle VIII** (Picasso Quilters) – March 1st and March 29th at 1:00 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

A DEVOTIONAL ALPHABET (author unknown)

Although things are not perfect	Keep thanking Him for all the things	To "thank" is a command
Because of trial or pain	Love imparts to thee	Until we see Him coming
Continue in thanksgiving	Move out of "Camp Complaining"	Victorious in the sky
Do not begin to blame	No weapon that is known	We'll run the race with gratitude
Even when the times are hard	On earth can yield the power	Xalting God most high
Fierce winds are bound to blow	Praise can do alone	Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...
God is forever able	Quit looking at the future	Zion waits in glory, where none are ever sad!
Hold on to what you know	Redeem the time at hand	
Imagine life without His love	Start every day with worship	
Joy would cease to be		

~~~ CAUGHT IN THE NET ~~~

**Hospitalized since the last issue:**

Evelyn Rae, Judy Ruscito

**Sympathy is extended to:**

The David family on the loss of Jay's mother, Joyce David, who passed away February 8.

The family of former member Barbara Gorham Prentiss, who passed away in Florida February 28.

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

*Dear Friends,*

*Greetings from Florida!*

*Enclosed please find a check for my per capita portion. What a delight it was to receive the Fishermen's News and catch up on the wonderful past and future events at Greenwood!*

*Blessings to all,*

*Jean Greco*

*Dear Friends,*

*I am overwhelmed by the generosity of my friends here at Greenwood Church. Your kind donations to the fund set up by the Board of Deacons have enabled me to take so many positive steps forward with my appearance and my confidence. Soon, the work of the very generous and caring Dr Kenneth Rudman will be completed, and I can't thank you all enough for your love and support for my daughters and me.*

*God bless,*

*Julia Porcaro*

*Dear Greenwood Family,*

*We would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all those who braved the late winter weather on February 15<sup>th</sup> to attend Mom's calling hours and service, and to all those who sent cards and prayers. Also, a big thank you to Pastor Clark for his visits and prayers with Mom and for leading the service at the funeral home. Our church family is truly our second family and we are so blessed to know each and every one of you. God's love certainly shines through you!*

*In Him,*

*Jay and Lisa David,  
Amanda, Emily, Megan, Nicole and Akeelah*

*Dear Church Members,*

*I would like to thank Pastor Clark for his visit during my recent hospitalization. I truly enjoyed talking with him. Also, my heart felt thanks to Harry and Sheila Curran for the flowers and the wonderful conversation. I am truly blessed having you all as my church family and for the cards and notes that you send to me.*

*May God bless you all,*

*Evelyn Rae*



***HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!***

- Virginia Arling
- Jacqueline Aguire
- Janice Black
- Alan Blasdell, Jr.
- Jean Brown
- Millicent Budlong
- Chandler Budlong-Springer
- Lois-Bell Crankshaw
- Alice Danzer
- Jay David
- Megan David
- Jeff Devolve
- Jill Dickson
- Karsten Dietz
- Amy Donilon
- Shane Fraser
- Linda Gungle

- Robert Gungle
- Gregory Harrop
- Jeffrey Hebert
- Jillian Jacobs
- Sarah Kaplan
- Joan-Sandra McKnight
- William Monahan
- Chloe Pickup
- Kaitlyn Richardson
- Matthew Rothermel
- Rob Soave
- Zackery Snowman
- Martha Sommer
- Wilma Swanson
- David Williams
- Vanessa Vespia

# BUILDING FUND APPEAL

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT IS FROM THE **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT** PREPARED FOR THE 72<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL ECCLESIASTICAL AND CORPORATE MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION (slightly edited)

The summary of the church building's perennial heating problems below is from the December 2014 minutes of Session:

Our system has a big boiler that is wasting energy, i.e. one boiler supplying three zones of heat. (Please note: we found 5 zones coming off the boiler), we are assuming these are 1} Sanctuary (steam); 2} East wing (steam); 3} Fellowship Hall (steam); 4} West wing (Hot Water). We have one zone that we are not sure of, but we will find it. This configuration means our boiler is running almost constantly: 1) by keeping pressure in the steam system side, even if it doesn't need heat, 2) by providing heat for one zone (or more), when the other zones may not be calling for heat! 3) some steam zones are running empty, or close to it, and this is causing these circulator pumps and collection/expansion tanks to break down at a faster rate (this again is due to the system being on and running when the other zones may not be calling for heat), and we have found the system gets excess pieces of debris sent through the system instead of steam. (This may also be happening in the hot water zone.) 4) Parts and labor are the main expense we are incurring to keep our system running are our biggest recurring costs.

The Building and Grounds Committee submitted a proposal from A-Plus Plumbing for a solution of installing a high efficiency unit dedicated to the hot water circulating heating system in the West Wing. The proposal was approved by Session and implemented at a cost of **\$19,750** (*note: additional improvements/repairs were later approved for a total cost of \$20,500 -- slc*) This high efficiency unit will save much in operating costs over the years, and provide a very economical solution for problems plaguing our heating for well over a decade: Some estimates for solutions ranged in the hundreds of thousands of dollars; the current solution now allows each wing a separate boiler and promises to be much more efficient in fuel costs and repairs. **Session approved accepting the proposal and to conduct a fund-raising campaign asking members of the congregation and friends who use the building to help pay for the new heating system.** (*emphasis added – slc*)

The new boiler is now installed and running.

As reported at the Annual Meeting, **\$20,500** was borrowed from our line of credit to cover the expenses of this vitally necessary upgrade/repair. As noted above, Session is asking all who use the church building (and who benefit from the warmth while doing so!) to please consider contributing to this special **BUILDING FUND DRIVE!** Please use the envelope provided (*more envelopes will be available in the pews*), and/or note on the memo line of your check "**BUILDING FUND**".

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!**