

GREENVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
582 PUTNAM PIKE
GREENVILLE, RI 02828

MAY 2017

We extend our warmest welcome
and invite you to join us each week
in praise and worship.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Bible R.E.A.D. 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour 11:00 a.m.



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CONTACT US

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Email: greenvillebaptist@verizon.net
Pastor's email: pastor.gberi@verizon.net
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From the Pastor:

“Revive! Renew! Rejoice!” That is the theme of my 2017 sabbatical; a balance of rest to revive my body, mind, and soul; renewal of relationships with family and friends; rejoicing in the learning of new things; and travel to new places. I look forward to wiping the dust off the pile of ministry and other books I have desired to read for a long time, experiencing various styles of worship, attending the American Baptist Biennial in Portland Oregon (preceded by visiting with cousins and friends in California) and attending “Rhythms of the Spirit,” a five-day retreat in August. I believe that this three month time away from pastoral duties will have an immeasurably positive impact on my ministry as a pastor and upon my personal life so that I may be revived, renewed, and freely rejoice in the grace of God.

I will be taking two weeks vacation (May 22 – June 4) to wind down as I enter into sabbatical. It usually takes me close to a week just to catch up on sleep and begin to feel rested. Getting a head start on being *revived* before engaging in any of the planned activities for my sabbatical will give me a physical and emotional advantaged to better enjoy the more structured elements over the three months. During the second week of vacation, we are taking a family trip to celebrate Andrew’s graduation from college.

Throughout the Sabbatical, I look forward to visiting various churches to rejoice in the Lord while experiencing differing styles of worship. Jim and I delight in stepping out of our comfort zone, being open to the moving of the Holy Spirit in both more reserved traditions as well as ones that have a more charismatic flare. The sabbatical will allow me to worship in communities where I am anonymous to the congregation. I will intentionally visit churches of various ethnicities and denominations and will reflect on what aspects of worship and fellowship might work (or not work) in our church. We will definitely bring such observations back to Greenville Baptist Church.

Having time to truly be revived and renewed will no doubt allow my frame of mind to be one that is more inclined to rejoice in all areas of my life. When I am well rested, my attitude is positive, my mind sharper, my vision clearer and my creativity more innovative. That is the kind of person I aspire to be – and the kind of person I enjoy being around! Does not the congregation deserve to have a pastor that is open to new ideas and one that is rested enough to be truly attentive to important issues that the church faces amongst its members as well as in the world in the 21st century? Would not the congregants be empowered to take better care of their own spiritual health and growth when they see how the pastor has grown by taking the time to focus on her spiritual, physical and emotional needs? I will be excited to share my sabbatical experiences, and as I teach and preach, inspired by the new things I have learned, I hope that it will reignite the congregants’ desire to study deeper and experience more about the Christian faith and to embrace anew the power of the Holy Spirit that continues to transform lives, congregations and communities.

As I prepare for the sabbatical period, I have been working with the Deacons to make sure that if any pastoral emergencies arrive, the congregation will know who and what numbers to call. Sue, Chair of Deacons, and Paula, Chair of Pastoral Relations, will be checking in regularly with Rev. Don Rasmussen, sabbatical interim, with any issues or concerns within the congregation; especially illness or hospitalizations.

I will be working until Sunday, May 21. Although I will not see you for three months, I will continue to pray for the church and all of its members – and I hope you will remember me in your prayers!

Peace, Pastor Wendy

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A number of maintenance and repair issues are on our agenda. The repair of the lighting for the sign that faces Austin Avenue; the painting of the Sanctuary and Lower Vestry windows and several doors; the illumination of the American Flag on the Common; the conversion of our lighting from fluorescent bulbs to LED devices in the Lower Vestry, the Greenville Nursery School rooms, and the office; and the possibility of building an addition to the Thrift Shop are all under discussion.

A sabbatical leave agreement, signed by Pastor Wendy and Moderator John, is currently on file in the church office. The Diaconate and Pastoral Relations Committee will be responsible for coordinating the services of the Rev. Dr. Donald Rasmussen as interim pastor and of supply pastors during Pastor Wendy's sabbatical leave. The Board of Trustees will be responsible for implementing all financial arrangements.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIACONATE

HOME HABILITATION PROJECTS are in the works. If you or someone you know can use the help of some young people with yard work or simple repairs, please let Sue or the pastor know. We will be working with our people and some youth to do a few projects in May.

Check out the visitor bags in the back of the sanctuary, with gifts of welcome to any newcomer. Included are an updated church brochure, a Greenville Baptist Church pen and special treats!

Did you know – the **Fellowship Offering** envelope on the first Sunday of the month goes to a “Deacons Fund” for special needs. Recently, money has gone to provide our military with uplifting Guidepost Magazines, to pay for medicine for a church member, and to help send your donations to Honduras. If you know of a need, please let any of the Deacons know.

There are **grocery gift cards available, as well as food pantry items**, if you know someone who is struggling with food. No one should go hungry, and Greenville Baptist wants to help when we hear of a need.

Do you know of anyone in need of a card, call or visit? Let the pastor or a deacon know. Also, the cards in the pews are a way of letting people know someone is in need of a visit. Join us in praying regularly for those in our congregation who are sick, homebound or just a bit down.

Congratulations to Faith and Hunter on their decision to follow Christ through the waters of Baptism. We all rejoice with them.

The adult Bible Study at 9:00 on Sunday mornings has ended for this season and will begin again in September. We have been blessed with great, thought producing lessons, and with a variety of church members attending as they are able.

The Sabbatical is coming!

Pastor Wendy will be away beginning Monday, May 22nd, initially for two weeks' vacation, then continuing for 13 weeks of Sabbatical renewal time. She will return the week of September 4th, to the office and Sunday, September 10th to preach. Rev. Don Rasmussen will be available beginning the week of June 5th through September 3rd, with one week off during the summer. For pastoral emergencies, please call the church office (401-949-1134), Sue, chair of Deacons or Rev. Rasmussen, (after about June 4th).

Stay for a **luncheon on Sunday, May 21st** following the service, on Pastor Wendy and Jim's last day. Please plan to join us for a light lunch. We will collect individual cards, so the pastor can take them and read them at her leisure while away.

FROM THE MISSION BOARD

The next Mission Board meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 7th** following the worship service in the church office. Please note change of date. The next Soup Kitchen will be held on June 4th at the St. George's Episcopal Church. If you are interested in baking and/or serving please see Carla O'Neill. There will be a sign up sheet on the table in the Lower Vestry.

Opportunities for Outreach

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS – Lunch with Friends will be held Tuesday, May 23rd.

Join us, 11:30 – 1:30 for food and fellowship. Bring a friend!

Nursing Home Ministries:

- Every Sunday at 12:45 pm at the **Lodge at the Village at Waterman Lake.**
- First and third Tuesdays at 10:30 am at the **Courtyard at the Village at Waterman Lake.**
- First Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm and every other Thursday at 2:30 pm at **Cortland Place.**
- Every other Friday at 10:30 am at **Brookdale Smithfield.**

Would you be interested in helping with one of the nursing home ministries?

Speak with Janet about the Tuesday Courtyard Services

Wayne about the Sunday Lodge Services

Ginger about the Cortland Place and Brookdale Services

Your presence can make a difference to the residents!

Opportunities for Growth

Daily devotional booklets are available:

The Secret Place – March/April/May edition available.

The Upper Room – May/June edition available.

The Wednesday Bible Study meets at 1:00 pm in the Church House.

The Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office.

AB Women's Ministries
Tri-State Spring Conference
Come Together and See God at Work
June 2 & 3, 2017
Canonicus Camp and Conference Center

Bible Study Leader: Mylinda Baitis is a regional missionary with a focus on human trafficking in the Iberoamerica-Caribbean region. This ministry also includes serving as the International Ministries representative to the Organization of American States and United Nations sessions on human trafficking.

National AB Women's Ministries Guest: Ellen Teague, Coordinator of the Eastern Section, is a member of the First Baptist Church, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Ellen is skilled in administration and financial management and has used those skills to benefit religious organizations.

Overnight Stay and 3 Meals – AB Women/AB Girls	\$75/\$30
Saturday Only and 2 Meals – AB Women/AB Girls	\$40/\$25
Registration Forms in Lower Vestry	

Upcoming Sabbatical Period – June, July and August

Meet our Interim Minister for the Sabbatical Period

Monday, June 5 – Sunday, September 3, 2017

Rev. Dr. Donald R. Rasmussen

Born October 11, 1939 in New York City, Don then lived in upstate New York while in high school and college.

After seminary, his first ministry was at Jackson Street Baptist Church in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he was ordained and served for four years as Minister of Education. In 1968, he and his family moved to Rhode Island where he served for 28+ years as Assistant, Associate, and Senior Pastor of Phillips Memorial Baptist Church. On January 1, 1997, he began service as Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. He retired from that position on January 1, 2007.

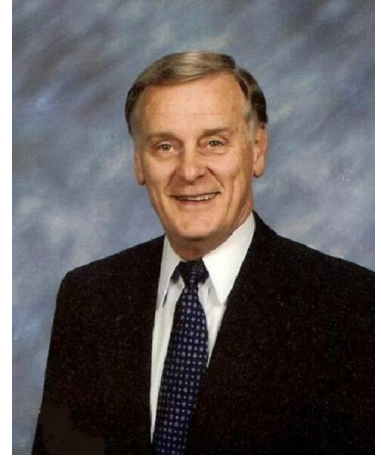
In retirement, he has worked with Natural Church Development©, tutored English as a second language, enjoyed RV travel with his five grandchildren. Presently Don and Ginny serve as volunteers at ABCORI's Motter Resource center and at the American Baptist Historical Society in Atlanta.

Both Don and Ginny have served on the General Board of the American Baptist Churches USA and have 14 years of combined experience as members of that board. Don served as chair of the Credentials and Caucus Committee and on the Board of National Ministries on the Finance Committee and on the Social and Ethical Responsibility in Investments Committee which he chaired. He also served on the board of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board. As the executive minister, Don served on the Regional Executive Ministers Council as secretary/treasurer and on the General Executive Council of the denomination.

During his time serving Rhode Island Baptists, Don instituted an Elder Care Ministry program with a full-time director; initiated electronic information distribution, reorganized and merged the denomination and camp staffs; built a new office facility, developed the Motter Resource center for pastors; began a "missionary in residence" program and increased volunteer help. His greatest joy in ministry is the eleven members of Phillips Memorial that entered professional ministry during his tenure as pastor.

Prior to the Sabbatical, the pastor will be taking 2 weeks vacation – May 22 – June 4.

Rev. Rasmussen will begin June 5.



Greenville Baptist Church --50 years ago

What did the True Blue Circle do in 1967? The Annual report states that the group was very busy. Programs included a guest speaker, Mrs. Brenton Arthur, who showed slides of a missionary family in Thailand, a Japanese Holiday party with Japanese decorations, refreshments and tea. In place of Christmas gifts,

dollars were placed on a Ming tree and the proceeds sent to Beulah McCoy, a missionary who taught at a girls' school in Sendai, Japan. (Her mother, Minnie McCoy lived next to the Church House where the driveway and grassy area is now located). Other projects included sending 4 CARE packages, holding a shower for Mather School in which 68 pounds of new and used clothing were sent, collected money from the women to be sent to South Providence Christian Center, sent 120 lbs. of good used clothing to Church World Service, contributed to Smithfield Scholarship Fund, contributed and delivered May Baskets to the RI Medical Center.

A new project that year was the baking of cookies and sending them to service men from our church. They also hosted the American Baptist Women's Spring Meeting in June. This is just a partial listing of what the True Blue Circle accomplished fifty years ago – more info next month.



The following is the Mission Statement and Covenant of True Blue Circle:

In commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to the mission of the Church, and through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, American Baptist Women's Ministries provides opportunities for each woman and girl to: become and develop as God's person, build God's faith community, and serve God's world.

Mindful of the millions who are still in darkness because they know not that the son of righteousness has arisen with healing in His wings, remembering the words of Christ who said, "I am the light of the world" and again "Ye are the light of the world," I gratefully pledge myself to work henceforth with Him, giving time, money, and prayer that upon such as sit in darkness and shadow of death, the Light of life may shine.

Jeanie Buckley, Church historian



Mid May Breakfast

Saturday May 13th

7:30 – 10:30 am

Tickets on sale.



Invite your family and friends!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 pm <i>Executive Bd.</i> 7:00 pm Quilting	2 10:30 am Village 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	3 7:00am MPB 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	4 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Free at Last	5 9:00-2:00 pm Thrift Shop	6 9:00-Noon Thrift Shop
7 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Bible R.E.A.D. 11:00 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Missions 12:45 pm Village 2:30 pm Cortland Place	8 7:00 pm Quilting	9 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	10 7:00am MPB 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	11 2:30 pm Cortland Place 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Free at Last	12 9:00-2:00 pm Thrift Shop 10:30 am Brookdale	13 7:30-10:30 am May Breakfast 9:00-Noon Thrift Shop
14 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Bible R.E.A.D. 11:00 am Coffee Hour 12:45 pm Village	15 7:00 pm <i>Deacons</i> 7:00 pm Quilting	16 10:30 am Village	17 7:00am MPB 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	18 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Free at Last	19 9:00-2:00 pm Thrift Shop	20 9:00-Noon Thrift Shop
21 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Bible R.E.A.D. 11:00 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Luncheon 12:45 pm Village	22 7:00 pm <i>Trustees</i> 7:00 pm Quilting	23 11:30-1:30 pm Lunch with Friends	24 7:00am MPB 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	25 2:30 pm Cortland Place 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Free at Last	26 9:00-2:00 pm Thrift Shop 10:30 am Brookdale	27 9:00-Noon Thrift Shop
28 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Bible R.E.A.D. 11:00 am Coffee Hour 12:45 pm Village	29 Memorial Day Office Closed 7:00 pm Quilting	30	31 7:00am MPB 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Notes:		

Pastor Wendy's office hours vary Monday through Thursday. Kathy has Pastor Wendy's monthly schedule. If you would like to drop in or make an appointment to meet with her call the church office at 401-949-1134 or the Pastor's cell 508-769-7636.