



**GREENVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**582 PUTNAM PIKE**  
**GREENVILLE, RI 02828**

**DECEMBER 2017**

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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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**From the**



**Pastor:**

Advent is upon us – the waiting for and celebrating the birth of the Christ child. Advent is the four Sundays leading up to Christmas – this year being December 3, 10, 17 and 24. Throughout our Advent worship, we will be looking at the Christmas story. Although it may be “familiar,” I invite you to enter into the Christmas story with fresh eyes – to see Christmas in a new light. When we listen to a well-known story we sometimes miss some of the powerful nuances of the story. If we can somehow approach the Christmas story in a fresh way, perhaps we can see some new and interesting aspects we may have not thought much about before.

During the four Sundays of Advent, we are going to look at some specific characters in the Christmas story and point out some nuances and plot twists that we may have overlooked. In doing so, we will hopefully see some helpful, practical, and inspiring new insights into this amazing story. In doing so, we will be reminded in a fresh way how much God loves us.

December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, we will be looking at the story in Luke 1:26-38, Mary’s encounter with the angel Gabriel and the announcement that she will bear a child whose name will be Jesus. Although Mary was perplexed and most undoubtedly a bit afraid, she eventually said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

December 10, we will encounter the shepherds who also were visited by an angel of the Lord, as recorded in Luke 2:8-14. They too were terrified at first, but their fear turned to joy when a multitude of heavenly host praised God saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

December 17, we will be blessed and inspired by the Greenville Baptist Choir as they perform “Holy Night of Miracles – a Cantata of Hope for Christmas.” This is the perfect time to invite family and friends to hear the story of Christmas in song.

December 24, at the 10:00 am service we will hear how the Wise Men traveled to Bethlehem to visit the child, “who has been born king of the Jews,” as told in Matthew 2:1-11.

Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm we will have our traditional candlelight service. In Luke 2:15-20, the shepherds see the Christ child and left “glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them.” We will contemplate not just what the shepherds and the wise men saw, but what we see when we look at the story of Christ’s birth with new eyes.

I encourage you to invite others to join you as you encounter a perhaps well-known story, and to experience it with open minds and hearts. Help others to see more in Christmas than just the gifts, the beautiful decorations, the delicious meals and the busy rush. Keep in mind that many – and maybe it is you this season – are stressed, overwhelmed, sad or lonely. Perhaps you or someone you love can hear the wonderful story of God’s love and grace and salvation and in turn will respond with joy and gladness and give praise to our God Almighty!

Peace,

**Pastor Wendy**

## FROM THE BOARD OF Christian Education

On Christmas Eve at the 10:00 am service, the children will have a birthday party for Jesus during Bible READ.

There will not be Bible READ on Sunday, December 31.

There will not be Adult Sunday class on December 24 or 31.



## FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees have prepared a proposed budget for 2018. The anticipated income and expenses are based on pledges made, fixed income, budget requests received, fixed expenses, and historical data. The anticipated expenses were compiled before the pledges were received. In the end, our anticipated expenses exceed our anticipated income by \$13. All of this information is contained in detail in the **2018 Proposed Budget** that was distributed to the congregation following the worship service on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Additional copies of this document will be available on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and before the Business Meeting the following week. Please plan to attend the Business Meeting in the Lower Vestry following our worship service on December 10<sup>th</sup>.



The National Grid/RISE project to refurbish or replace lighting fixtures with LED components in the Fellowship Hall lower level, stairwell to upper level (north), upper hallway (north), hallway at office, office, lower vestry (all), and exterior lights (all) was completed in June 2017. A review of invoices for July through September for 2017 and for a similar period in 2016 shows that our cost for electricity consumed has been reduced by approximately \$687 (based on 2017 rates). If this trend continues, we will receive our payback for this project cost well within the National Grid/RISE estimate of 39 months.



## FROM THE DEACONS

**Christmas Eve** falls on a Sunday this year. We will have two services, one at 10:00 am, and the traditional **candlelight service at 5:00 pm.**

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** classes should begin in January to help us be a people of action in a local emergency. If you are interested in trainings or finding out more about it, see Sue Guilmain or give your name to any of the deacons or church staff. They will consist of 10 weeks of 2 hour classes on family and home preparedness, extinguishing fires, sandbagging, generators and pumps, certifications (First Aid, CPR, AED), and Smithfield resources and facilities. We hope to begin in January.

**MOVIE NIGHT – A CASE FOR CHRIST** – This great book has been made into a movie and we will host a Friday movie night on **Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**. Come at 6 for supper, and stay for popcorn and a fascinating story. While it may not interest children we hope adults of all ages will join us and bring a friend or two.

**PAWS BEHIND BARS** a program where prisoners train dogs for veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress was the recipient of \$350 raised through the November Fellowship offering. This is the special offering collected the first week of the month. Thanks to all who contributed.

Thanks so very much for the anonymous donation of a used van to a family who needed it. This generous gift will be presented to a special family, who are friends of church members, during services Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. What a blessing for all involved.



**FOOD BASKETS** – I delivered those large, generous wonderful food baskets, and wanted you and the Sunday School children to know how very much they were appreciated. One went to a church member who wanted to be sure to thank you so very, very much. She was touched to know that people were thinking of her, and although she felt others could have used it more, it meant so much for her to know she is remembered and loved by the church family. Another basket went to a mom who just came home from a week in the hospital and she and her two boys were excited to have a whole dinner and fixings; the kids just wanted to tear into the beautifully prepared basket to see what delicious food they could find! Everyone thanks the Greenville Baptist Church Sunday School and all who helped. You are all such a blessing.  
Sue Guilmain

### **FROM THE MISSION BOARD**

There will be a short Mission Board meeting on December 10th following the Business Meeting to elect a chairperson.

**THE NEXT SOUP KITCHEN** at St. George's Episcopal Church in Central Falls is December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will be making sandwiches following the worship service that day. If you would like to make sandwiches, bake a dessert and/or serve lunch there is a sign up sheet on the table in the Lower Vestry.

The Mission Board has donated Stop and Shop gift cards to Tri-Town for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets. The Board has also contributed to the funds to help the GBC folks going to Honduras. The Board continues to fund our food pantry and gives items needed to the Community Care Alliance in Woonsocket. This past summer in addition to other items we gave the shelter 15 window fans.

The Board has ordered 3 cases of large print Bibles to be given to the Chaplains at local hospitals. Chaplains have enthusiastically received the news of our donation of Bibles.

The Mission Board has decided to continue cooking for the **Breadline Ministry** starting in February of next year. If you are interested in helping with cooking at GBC or serving the food on Fridays in Providence please see Carla O'Neill or Sandy Sylvia.



**Invite friends and family to experience the true meaning of the Christmas Season at Greenville Baptist Church!**

## Opportunities for Outreach



The Christmas celebration for Lunch with Friends will be at 11:30 am on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. We always have a good time as we feast on a delicious ham dinner, and don't forget the chocolate fountain! Hope you can make it. We always enjoy celebrating the holidays with our friends.

### 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 Whalen about the Tuesday Courtyard Services

Pastor Wendy about the Sunday Lodge Services

Ginger O'Shan 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** – December/January/February edition available.

**The Upper Room** – January/February edition available.

**The Adult Sunday Class** meets at 9:00 am in the Upper Room.

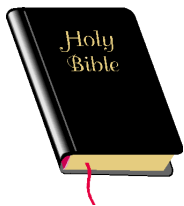
**The Wednesday Bible Study** meets at 1:00 pm in the Church House.

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

**Is there a Book of the Bible or a Topical Study that you would like to engage in?**

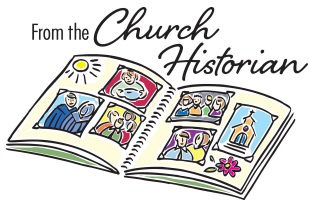
Speak to Pastor Wendy, suggest a topic and a day of the week and time of day (or evening) that you would like to meet with a small group.

### **2018 Bible Challenge: Read the New Testament in 90 days!**



Beginning January 1, 2018, you are invited to participate in an all church challenge to read the entire New Testament in 90 days. If you begin on January 1, and read about three chapters a day, you will complete the New Testament on March 31, 2018 – the day before Easter Sunday.

A suggested reading plan is available with a check off for each day's chapters. Let's do this together and let God's Word fill us and transform us!



## 50 Years Ago at GBC

December, 1967, was a busy, wonderful time at GBC. An evening service of Christmas music was presented by the RI Boys Choir, the Lincoln School Lambrequins and St. Martins Men's Choir. The sanctuary was filled to capacity despite stormy weather. Joining in with the festive activities, the

Junior High Fellowship presented movies for children; the Junior BYF attended the Christmas Candlelight Service and presented their hand-made candles to the Senior Citizen guests.

Meanwhile, the Senior High BYF presented a Vesper Service at the Baptist Home in Newport. On December 17<sup>th</sup> they held their Christmas Party at Church, preceded by the Lighting of the Green and Christmas Caroling. Looking back through the past years, GBC should be proud of their many activities, their commitment to Christ and their love and care of their members, friends and community.

Merry Christmas Everyone! Jeanie, Church Historian

Greenville Baptist Church  
Christmas OPEN HOUSE  
**Saturday, December 2, 2017**  
4:00pm to 6:30pm

The lighting of the Christmas Tree on the property of our church across from the fire station will occur on Saturday, December 2 – the day before the First Sunday in Advent. Festivities will begin at the senior center with a parade ending at the common.

Last year there were HUNDREDS of people that gathered to see the lighting. One of our Deacons, Elaine Lariviere, had the wonderful idea to host an “Open House” during that time so that people can come in out of the cold and have a hot drink, but also to be exposed to our church community. She drafted a beautiful ad that will be in the Smithfield Magazine. Make sure to look for it!

We will have Christmas music playing, carols being sung, and drinks served. Pastor Wendy’s Advent sermon series will be advertized as well as the Christmas Cantata that will be Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, and the two Christmas Eve Services in the morning and evening.

If you would like to parade from Deerfield Park to the Green, see Amy.

If you can be a welcoming presence and assist in any way, speak with Pastor Wendy, Sue, Elaine or Jim. Let’s help Greenville celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!

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A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,  
Help us to remember the birth of Jesus  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and  
open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and  
good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings, and teach us to  
be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy  
to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening  
bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen

~ Robert Louis Stevenson



**Help Beautify our sanctuary with Poinsettias**



I wish to give a poinsettia(s) to decorate our church sanctuary for Christmas. Plants need to be delivered to the church office by Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

If you wish, the Flower Committee will order a plant for you at a special discount price:

\_\_\_\_\_ 6" \$13.00          \_\_\_\_\_ 7" \$20.00          \_\_\_\_\_ 8" \$25.00

\_\_\_\_\_ please order a plant for me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will purchase a plant and deliver it on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. (By 10 a.m.)

**PLEASE HAVE THE PLANTS WRAPPED IN GREEN.**

Plant(s) presented in loving memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please leave the poinsettia(s) in church until after the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

I would like:

\_\_\_\_\_ to pick up the poinsettia(s) after the service on Christmas Eve.

\_\_\_\_\_ to have the plant(s) given to a shut-in.

You may give this form to Paula Davis, (Flower Committee) or mail it to the office.

**All orders must be in on or before December 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Flower information must be received in the Office no later than December 17<sup>th</sup> if it is to be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.**





| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |   |  |  | <b>1</b><br>9:00-2:00 pm Thrift Shop                        | <b>2</b><br>9:00-Noon Thrift Shop<br>9:00-Noon Dream Team Bazaar |
| <b>3</b><br>9:00 am Adult Class<br>10:00 am Worship<br>10:00 am Bible R.E.A.D.<br>11:00 am Coffee Hour<br>11:00-Noon Bazaar<br>Noon Soup Kitchen<br>12:45 p.m. Village<br>2:30 pm Cortland Place | <b>4</b><br><b>7:00 pm Executive Bd.</b><br>7:00 pm Quilting                     | <b>5</b><br>10:30 am Village<br>7:00 pm Boy Scouts                | <b>6</b><br>7:00 am MPB<br>1:00 pm Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Choir<br>7:00 pm Boy Scouts  | <b>7</b><br>7:00 pm Men's Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Free at Last                            | <b>8</b><br>9:00-2:00 pm Thrift Shop<br>10:30 am Brookdale  | <b>9</b><br>9:00-Noon Thrift Shop                                |
| <b>10</b><br>9:00 am Adult Class<br>10:00 am Worship<br>10:00 am Bible R.E.A.D.<br>11:00 am Coffee Hour<br><b>11:00 am Church Business Meeting</b><br>12:45 p.m. Village                         | <b>11</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br><b>7:00 pm Missions</b><br>7:00 pm Quilting | <b>12</b><br>7:00 pm Cub Scouts                                   | <b>13</b><br>7:00 am MPB<br>1:00 pm Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Choir<br>7:00 pm Boy Scouts | <b>14</b><br>2:30 pm Cortland Place<br>7:00 pm Men's Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Free at Last | <b>15</b><br>9:00-2:00 pm Thrift Shop                       | <b>16</b><br>9:00-Noon Thrift Shop                               |
| <b>17</b><br>9:00 am Adult Class<br>10:00 am Worship<br>10:00 am Bible R.E.A.D.<br>11:00 am Coffee Hour<br>12:45 p.m. Village  | <b>18</b><br><b>7:00 pm Deacons</b><br>7:00 pm Quilting                          | <b>19</b><br>10:30 am Village<br>11:30-1:00 pm Lunch with Friends | <b>20</b><br>7:00 am MPB<br>1:00 pm Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Choir<br>7:00 pm Boy Scouts | <b>21</b><br>7:00 pm Men's Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Free at Last                           | <b>22</b><br>9:00-2:00 pm Thrift Shop<br>10:30 am Brookdale | <b>23</b><br>9:00-Noon Thrift Shop                               |
| <b>24 Christmas Eve</b><br>10:00 am Worship<br>11:00 am Coffee Hour<br>5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service   | <b>25 Christmas Day</b><br><b>Office Closed</b>                                  | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b><br>7:00 am MPB<br>1:00 pm Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Choir<br>7:00 pm Boy Scouts | <b>28</b><br>2:30 pm Cortland Place<br>7:00 pm Men's Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Free at Last | <b>29</b><br>9:00-2:00 pm Thrift Shop                       | <b>30</b><br>9:00-Noon Thrift Shop                               |
| <b>31 New Year's Eve</b><br>10:00 am Worship<br>10:00 am Bible R.E.A.D.<br>11:00 am Coffee Hour  |  |   |  |  |   |  |