## Greenville Baptist Church

## What Makes Us Unique?

There are dozens of American Baptist churches in Rhode Island and hundreds across the US. What makes Greenville Baptist RI stand out? We are a church that tries to be like that church Paul wrote about in Macedonia, "They gave themselves first to the Lord, then by the will of God to us." We are a church who prays – individually and communally. There has been a growth in prayer with many people previously uncomfortable praying out loud, now praying for friends and family and even strangers.

By individual giving and sharing resources of time, of spiritual gifts, and of money, this church community has been able to help many visions become reality. Here are just a few examples:

- A teenage boy, travelling on a mission trip to Honduras, had a desire to help a community there build a church. Greenville Baptist stood behind him as he and others worked to raise over \$35,000 in the course of 5 years, to build the church.
- A retired accountant had a call to attend seminary, and with the church's full support, the dream was attained, and she now has a ministry in her assisted living home.
- A farmer had a serious medical condition, and the church community rallied around to help do a number of repair projects, and people with specific skills just "happened" to turn up to help. (A cattle farmer from out of state helped install a gate and electric fencing, veterans from a nearby shelter had skills to fix a tractor).
- A mom and adult daughter had a dream of going to a medical mission field, and the church got behind that dream and helped make it happen.
- Another team dreamed we could establish a dinner church service, where people could come together in a less formal atmosphere, discuss spiritual topics, receive communion, sing in praise and share a simple meal.
- When the church decided to put in a lift, not everyone agreed with the expense, but when voted upon, even the naysayers were part of making sure it happened.
- We were able to support one former pastor in getting a doctorate degree, and another in taking a sabbatical.

We may not always agree, we may not all have the same vision, but we are united in seeking God first, and trying to follow His leading. We listen to one another and support each other's ministries. In this way, God uses the ordinary people of Greenville Baptist to accomplish extraordinary things.