

THE TWIG BENDER

February

2011

Greenwood UMC

Driving Towards the Vision

A favorite management practice these days in the public and private sectors is to develop an organizational vision statement, then a mission statement and then goals to support the vision and the mission.

In the Church, it's a bit different. We already have our mission. Jesus told us: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" – *Matthew 28:19 (New International Version, ©2010).*

OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Please pray for these brothers
and sisters in Christ*

Lawrence Allen, Brian Beckley Jr.,
Annie Mae Carter, Ashley Draper,
Leola Frayser, Thomas Jackson,
Jane Gray Kibler, George & Lois
Fallows, Betty McKee, Pat Moran,
Virginia Moran, Betty & Harvey
Roach, Rita Robinson, Benjamin
Shannon, Lavelle Sheffield, Steve
Sheffield, Carolyn Stone, Gloria
Slingerland, Ann Taylor, Johnny
Taylor, Mary Walker, Jennifer Yeary

At Greenwood we've developed this vision:

Greenwood is a place to love and grow with God; a place to love, connect with and serve our brothers and sisters.

Some ways Greenwood is already working towards our vision include:

(Continued on page 8)

From The Pastor

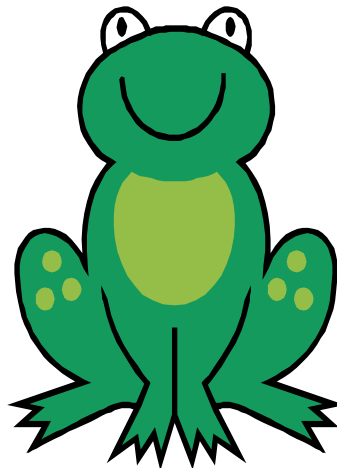
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we start the New Year with a new commitment to God and His church I want to pass along the following article.

If 99.9 Percent Is Good Enough

If 99.9% is good enough, then....

- 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily
- 114,500 mismatched pairs of shoes will be shipped each year
- 18,322 pieces of mail will be mishandled every hour
- 2 million documents will be lost by the IRS this year
- 2.5 million books will be shipped with the wrong covers
- 2 planes landing at Chicago's O'Hare every day airport will be unsafe
- 315 entries in Webster's Dictionary will be misspelled
- 20,000 incorrect drug prescriptions will be misspelled this year
- 880,000 credit cards in circulation will turn out to have incorrect cardholder information on their magnetic strips
- 103,260 income tax returns will be processed incorrectly during the year
- 5.5 million cases of soft drinks produced will be flat
- 291 pacemaker operations will be preformed incorrectly
- 3,056 copies of tomorrow's Wall Street Journal will be missing one of the three sections



(Continued on page 5)

Methodist Minute:

Heart Havens

Heart Havens provides for the residential needs of adult individuals with intellectual disabilities through the development and management of group homes throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This is accomplished by:

- Establishing and promoting a Conference-wide effort to address the needs of individuals with these disabilities;
- Encouraging the individual's involvement in the life of the local community and its resources;
- Respecting and nurturing the individual's uniqueness, dignity, and worth;
- Ministering to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each individual;
- Understanding and addressing the concerns and needs of each individual's family;
- Involving local churches and Heart Havens in affirming God's love and care for all His children;
- Involving individuals in activities of local churches

The Twig Bender

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Pittman

Minister of Christian Education: Mr. Brian Johnson

PASTOR'S HOME

11090 Quail Whistle Drive

Glen Allen, VA 23059

804-262-1628

Visit our web site at www.gumcva.org

Why Does Sunday School Matter?

By Brian Johnson

Why does Sunday School matter? Why do we run Bible Studies and encourage people to come to them? How are small groups like women's circles and the United Methodist Men important to the life of the church? As a Minister of Christian Education and someone who studies the practice and theory of Christian Education, these are the kinds of questions that I face regularly. More importantly, as a Christian, these are critical questions about the role of small group study in my Christian life.



The short answer is this: these programs are important because they're essential to our spiritual thriving and growth. Worship is the center of the life of the individual Christian and the church as a whole. It is in worship that we begin to learn the story of God and God's people, receive strength for our journey of faith, and offer the praise which is due to the God who is our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. But Sunday morning worship, by itself, can't do everything. In our pattern of worship, there is no room for asking our questions, for holding each other accountable, or for more deeply and carefully exploring complicated issues in the Bible and life.

The various activities which make up our "Christian Education" programming offer us a chance to go deeper. Through these activities we have the chance to gain deeper knowledge of God, to form deeper relationships with each other, and to develop a deeper and more profound faith. Ideally, this process of going deeper helps us to more fully discover our Christian identity and to better hear God's

(Continued on page 6)

January Attendance and Offerings

*“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce”
— Proverbs 3:9*

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Giving
January 2	18	54	4,609.15
January 9	22	53	4,814.00
January 16	20	66	873.00
January 23	23	57	3,728.00
January 30	Numbers not available at press time		
<i>January Totals</i>	83	230	14,024.15
<i>January Averages:</i>	20.8	57.5	3,506.04

\$2,725 offering needed weekly to meet Greenwood’s 2010 operating budget of \$141,712. Your generosity is appreciated

From the Pastor — Continued

(Continued from page 2)

The list goes on and on. On Christmas Day, God gave us 100 percent in sharing the birth of His son with us. On Easter, His son gave 100 percent, his life, on a cross for us in order that we may have everlasting life. When we surrender to Christ, he anticipates 100 percent commitment – 99.9 percent is not good enough.

Shalom

Rev. Dean

(Edited from an article by Nancy Haga in Jan. 1999 newsletter of Farmville UMC by permission)



Why Does Sunday School Matter?

(Continued from page 4)

call. Put differently, small discipleship groups like Sunday School and Bible studies can help us grow closer to God and learn to better love and serve our neighbor. What Christian wouldn't want that?

It is our church's goal to get every member and every regular Sunday worship participant actively involved in some sort of small discipleship group. Imagine what our church might look like if we achieved this goal. Imagine the transformation and grace we might witness if more of us were involved in these groups.

Are you not involved in one of these groups? I invite you to try one. Join a Sunday School class. Attend our Lenten Bible Study. Join the Men's

group or a women's circle. Try to discover God in the context of one of these small groups.



Have you tried one and found that you didn't like it? That's ok – try another. You never know where God may be speaking to you.

And if you're already involved in one of these groups, invite someone who's not involved to join you. Tell them why your Sunday School class or Bible study or whatever matters to you. Friends and companions and fellow learners are essential to our cooperative journey towards God.

I can't wait to see what we will discover about God as we journey together towards a deeper faith.

See the list of small group opportunities on page 15

Help Wanted at Lamb's Basket

You know Lamb's Basket has to have donated food to operate. The other half of that story is that it has to have volunteers to distribute the food. There are no paid employees at Lamb's Basket. Due to the increase of our patrons and changes in the system of getting the food ready to pass out to them, there is a critical need for more volunteers.

If you are willing, please don't hesitate to come see just how much you could do to help. If you are young or old there are opportunities for everyone.

If you are curious to see what goes on during the days we stock the food (Monday and Wednesday) or the days that we pass out the food (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) come see us and I'll give you a personal tour! I'm there five days a week from 9:30 -12:30.

Nancy Yeary (804-262-7655)
Lamb's Basket Board Member Nominee

Church Office Volunteers

The office at Greenwood United Methodist Church is staffed by a group of volunteers. The office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Our volunteers are Arline Shafer, Betty Ritchie, Charlene Hawkins, Joan George-Sipe, with two alternates, Gay Stapleton and Ray Smith. The volunteers are working well as a team but we need more alternates. If there is any one who has a few hours of time and can help us out please call Gay Stapleton at 804-672-8408 or leave a message at the church office.

LADIES YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB – Thanks, Gay
(I agree! — Steve)

Driving Towards the Vision

(Continued from page 1)

- **Love for God** – Worship services, bible studies, baptisms, Sunday schools.
- **Support Each Other** – Prayers, visitations, circles, fellowship dinners, United Methodist Men.
- **Serve the Community** – Community fair, Glen Allen Day, after school program, VBS, CARITAS, Scouts, school support, Lamb's Basket.

This vision statement was developed by the Greenwood Vision Committee at their meeting on January 22. At that meeting, the team decided to form a group to study other means by which we can achieve the vision. Members of that group are: Charley Banks, Lewis Daniel, Roger Eckwright, Jennifer Friedline, Charlene Hawkins and Adamarye Patteson.

The committee will work on what can be done to improve or change the ways we're working toward more effectively supporting the vision. Some of the questions they will address include: can the programs be inter-connected? Can there be better division of labor? How can we do better with communication, especially internal? How can we get everyone to participate in something – how can we provide opportunities to serve?

Please contact any member of the Vision Study Group with your ideas or suggestions.



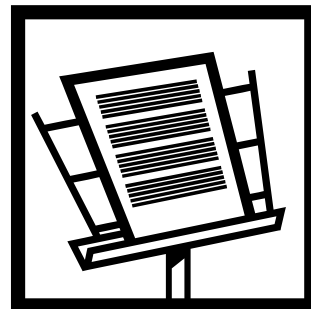
Musical Notes

Revival Tent Favorites in February

Greetings in Jesus!

The brisk wind and cold temperatures have given the choir inspiration!

We are using our energy and voices to produce some of the best loved gospel music from the past. This music will stir your heart and get your toes tapping. Please join us each Sunday in February as we share some Revival Tent favorites.



While we are looking forward to Spring and the renewed promise it brings, we would like to invite you to join us on Thursday evenings at 7 o'clock for choir practice. There is no better way to Worship God than to sing his praise. Each week we have fun making a joyful noise. No experience required!

“O Come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation”. — *Psalms 95:1 KJV*

Greenwood Youth Fellowship

Youth Forms New Sunday School Class

Two new Sunday school classes are starting February 6, 2011. Youth ages 10 to 19 are encouraged to join this new class.

In addition, a Young Adults Sunday school class will meet.

Each Sunday school class will meet in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning.

We hope you can join us.



Greenwood Circles

The Willing Workers Circle meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. We take turns hosting the meetings in our homes. In February we will be meeting at Gina Lahocki's home located at 4911 Kellywood Circle. If any of you would like to join us we would be more than happy to have you.

In January we had our Christmas Get-together at the Skilligallee Restruant. We invited our husbands or significant others to join us for an evening of good company, food and atmosphere.

In February we will be putting together boxes to send to our troops in Iraq. Our troops are provided for but they are far from family and friends and appreciate any thing that reminds them of

home. If you would like to send something you can drop your items off at the church office. We will also be making plans for the coming months.

If you have any questions about The Willing Workers Circle please feel free to call our officers: Charlene Hawkins, President; Gay Stapleton, Secretary; Charlotte Hodges, Treas-



ure. Hope to see you.

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, February 2 at the home of Dorothy Sties.

We are currently studying *Facing Your Giants* by Max Lucado. If you are interested in coming, give Adamarye Patteson a call at 266-6364 to get directions to Dorothy's house.



FunRaisers

Raising \$ for Sanctuary Projector

Our next big project is to buy a screen and projector for the church sanctuary.

We hope to buy all the equipment to allow us to step into the 21st century. This would be a real asset to the church when it can be installed enabling us to have slide shows and other capabilities.

It will take a long time to pay for this, but we are hoping you will continue to buy our bag lunches after worship services so this can happen. Be sure to look for the signup sheet in the Narthex.

Fellowship Dinner

February 9 at 6:30 p.m. – Pot roast with veggies, steamed broccoli, biscuits, cherry chocolate cake – all for \$5.00. Sign up on flyer in church bulletin or call the church office 266-5341.

FUNraisers Bag Lunch

Pick up after Church Service February 27 – Grilled hot dog, cup of chili, fruit cup, cheese cake only \$7.00.



Greenwood Nursery Opportunity

We have a young lady who is interested in keeping the nursery during worship services. Since this is not a budgeted item, I am asking if anyone or a group would like to donate to this. Call Adamarye Paterson — 266-6364 if you have questions or would like to donate.



February Birthdays

Congratulations to these members of our church family celebrating birthdays this month:

Gay Stapleton	1 st
Lorrie Bowie	7 th
Brenda Shuler	18 th
Riley Patteson	19 th
Joseph Stanley	22 nd
Alison Smith	22 th
Harry Shuler	28 th

After School Ministry News

Our after school program is going well. The kids had a late Christmas party due to the snow and being out of school before the winter break.

On January 17, they went to the Aviation Museum and then to Chuck-E-Cheese for lunch. A good time was had by everyone.

If you have an hour or two to spare, the kids would love for you to come and visit and play games with them. The program could really use some new board games or some balls (kick ball, basketball, football) to play with.

February Communion Offering

Heart Havens



See the Methodist Minute on page 3 for full details about this worthwhile charity.

Small Group Opportunities

Call the contact person listed for more information on each group

Group	Contact
Just Friends Class Meets Sunday at 9:45 a.m.	Linda Walker 804-262-7720
Sanders Childrey Class Meets Sunday at 9:45 a.m.	Ray Smith 804-262-3273
Fellowship Class Meets Sunday at 9:45 a.m.	Brenda Shuler 804-746-4694
Willing Workers Circle Meets 1 st Wednesday each Month	Gay Stapleton 804-672-8408
Ruth Circle Meets 1 st Wednesday each Month	Adamayre Patteson 804-266-6364
Cornerstones Meets for lunch at 11:30 a.m., 3 rd Wednesday each month	Maurice Hawkins 804-262-4489
United Methodist Men Meets for Breakfast, 8 a.m. 1 st Saturday each Month	Roger Eckwright 804-328-4688

Live Simply, Love Generously
Serve Faithfully, Speak Truthfully,
Pray Daily ...
Leave everything else to God