



Do You Want to be Healed?

By Charley Banks

Jesus healing the cripple at the Bethesda Pool was the subject of a sermon preached by the Reverend Dr. Jim Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus of Riverside Church, New York City. The sermon was part of downtown Rich-

mond's St. Paul's Episcopal Church's 2011 Lenten Series, on April 14. Read the story in John 5:1-9:

¹Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ²Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed—and they waited for the moving of the waters.

⁴From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease he had. ⁵One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight

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OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Please pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ

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

From The Pastor

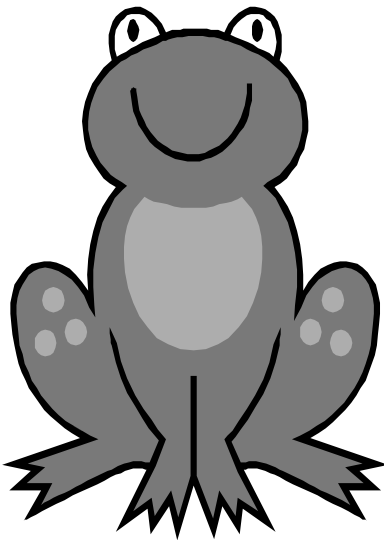
Greetings in the Name of the Risen Christ

We have gone from Ash Wednesday, a time of remembering our mortality, to the triumphant entry of Jesus with the palms, the rollercoaster ride of emotions during Holy week, to the glorious Easter morning.

What do we do now? Do we sit and wait until the next big holiday to get excited or do we listen to what Jesus told Mary at His empty tomb? Jesus told Mary to go and tell the disciples. We as a church need to go and tell. The excitement of a "Risen Christ" should be something we should be shouting from the roof tops.

The disciples were afraid of what might happen to them and returned to doing what they had been doing before Christ called them: fishing. They forgot what Jesus had taught them and returned to a life without Jesus. The church needs to remember that Jesus is alive and we should keep doing His work.

Easter morning is not the end of the story. We write the story every day, sometimes really well and at other times very poorly. The church has the responsibility of building the Kingdom here on earth.



Relaxing after Easter and not continuing the excitement of Jesus rising from the grave is an easy trap to fall into. The devil just loves it when we sit down and say, "let someone else do the work; I have done this before and it's their time now."

The story continues! We, each of us, has a part in the story and we need to work even harder now. Our story is part of God's story

(Continued on page 10)

Methodist Minute:

Key Bible Verses for May

May 1st Receiving God's Love – The Practice of Radical Hospitality

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God” (*Romans 15:7*)

“We love because He first loved us.” (*1 John 4:19*)

May 8th Loving God in Return – The Practice of Passionate Worship

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord.” (*Psalms 84:1-2*)

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (*Luke 10:27*)

May 15th Growing in Grace – The Practice of Intentional Faith Development

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers” (*Acts 2:42*)

“Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as in habit of some, but encouraging one another....” (*Hebrews 10: 24-25*)

May 22nd Loving and Serving Others – The Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (*Matthew 25:40*)

Then Jesus went to work on His disciples... “Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.” (*Matthew 16: 24-25*)

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Greenwood Circles

Willing Workers

The Willing Workers Circle will meet Wednesday, May 4 at 7 p.m. at the home of Charlotte Hodges, 11191 Greenwood Rd. We invite any of you who are interested to join us. We will be happy to see you.

In April the Willing Workers sent Easter cards to our church shut-ins. We voted to donate \$51.22 to Good Samaritan Ministries for Easter dinners. Did you know that Good Samaritan Ministries can provide a meal for \$1.97 per person?

We also voted to provide Kits for Conference again this year. (See *article on page 7*) We continue to help Lamb's Basket by donating cleaning and beauty supplies. Please don't forget to bring non perishable food items to church for the Lamb's Basket.

The Willing Workers will not be meeting in July and August again this year due to vacations and travel. We will start back again in September.

Ruth

The Ruth circle would like to thank everyone who bought eggs and donated money to the eggs for UMFS. I know the children really appreciated them. We sent over 100 eggs to them.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 4 at 7 PM in the home of Adamarye Patteson. We will continue with our bible study.

Anyone who is interested in attending give Adamarye (266-6364) a call.

We will have another birthday party in June for the afterschool program.

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

Are You Ready to Grow in Faith?

What is discipleship? It is a life long commitment to follow Christ and to become more like him in thought, word and deed. Helping you grow in your discipleship to Jesus Christ is one of the main goals of Greenwood UMC.

A person becomes a disciple by making a conscious decision turn his or her life over to God through Jesus Christ. The journey of discipleship is like a growing garden. Faith needs nourishment, tending and loving care to grow and become what God intended it to be.

Here is the good news; you will not be alone in your journey. There will be others on their journey that you will meet to share and grow with as you come together for fellowship, prayer and to study God's word.

Here at Greenwood we recognize that everyone is on his or her own unique spiritual journey and that is why we want you to try different opportunities. Greenwood's classes and small groups offer Christ-centered spiritual growth and encouragement for every season of our life so that we may deepen our relationship with God.

These opportunities are for transformation, not just information. The ministries and activities listed in the sidebar on page 10 can help you find where you are in your faith journey and help identify areas where you can grow. You can explore and experience different ministries or activities to find what is right for you.

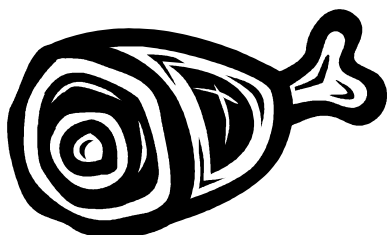
See Opportunities for Growing Faith on page 10



FunRaisers

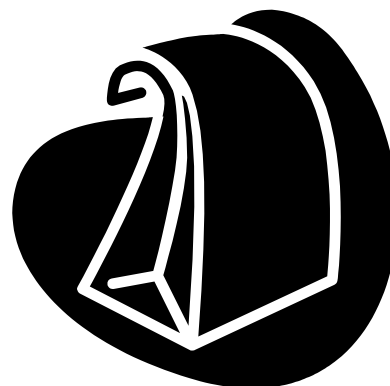
Fellowship Dinner

May 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For only \$5 enjoy baked ham, macaroni and cheese, steamed broccoli, jello salad, apple cobbler and biscuits. Sign up using the insert in the bulletin or call the church office at 266-5341.



FunRaisers Bag Lunch

Pick up after church services on May 22. Lunch includes chicken salad on croissant, fruit cup, chips and cookies. Cost is \$7 per lunch. sign up in the church narthex or call the church office.



Church Office Volunteers

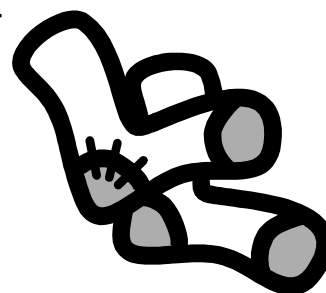
The church office is still in need of volunteers. We need volunteers to cover for our regular ladies when they can not be there due to appointment, illness or vacations. The church office is staffed Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you can be an alternate, please call Gay Stapleton at 672-8408 or the church office at 266-5341.

LPUMW Hosts Juvenile Correction Center Mission Volunteer

Dale Mitchell will be guest speaker at the Laurel Park United Methodist Women (UMW) meeting on May 10 at 7 p.m.

Ms. Mitchell and her husband have a wonderful mission at Beaumont Juvenile Correction Center. She is president of the volunteer auxiliary at Beaumont and teaches Bible Study. Dale will talk about how the different ministries at Beaumont help the young boys who are learning life lessons there. Everyone – men and women – is invited.

Want to make a difference in a young boy's life? The Laurel Park UMW are collecting white calf-high men's socks and white drawing or notepaper. There will be a box in the Greenwood narthex for these items. They will be needed by Sunday, May 7.



Kits for Conference

It's time for Greenwood to start working on Kits for Conference. The 2011 Virginia Conference kit collection will replenish the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) supply. UMCOR reports there is a need for all types of kits. Greenwood church family members are encouraged to collect items for any of these UMCOR kits so our delegates can carry them to the Annual Conference in Roanoke in June. The list and instructions are available at the Virginia Conference web site:



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<http://www.vaumc.org/>

Opportunities for Growing Faith

CIRCLES

We offer two circles for the women of Greenwood, each circle meeting on the first Wednesday night of the month. Each circle has its own special projects during the year plus helping the church when asked. (see page 4)

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The men meet for breakfast on the first Saturday each month. The men take turns cooking and providing the “stories” that are being told. The men also help in different areas of the church.

COMMUNITY FAIR

On the first Saturday in November the church sponsors a community fair on the church grounds. This is our annual fundraiser. We try to provide a fun atmosphere for the community with a yard sale, bake sale and our famous Brunswick Stew. There are many ways to become involved with this project.

CARITAS

This is an outreach mission where we provide housing for the homeless for one week each year. In addition to the shelter, meals are provided each day. Great opportunities to help include washing clothes, serving meals or reading to the children.

CHOIR

We have an adult choir that sings at the 11 a.m. worship service every Sunday. The choir practices on Thursday night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each week. The choir performs special music during the year.

OTHER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Lamb’s Basket, Afterschool Program, School Supplies, Glen Allen Day, Fellowship Meals, Cornerstones (see page 11), Altar Guild, Boy Scouts, Ushers/Greeters and Sunday School.

Honor Our Graduates

It's time to honor our graduates. Is someone in your family graduating from high school, college, graduate school, community college or vocational school?

The Ruth Circle wants to know who they are, from where they are graduating and a little about their interests and future plans. Phone, email or give me a note so we can share with the congregation. Arline Shafer, amshafer@vcu.org.



Greenwood's Cornerstones

The Cornerstones would like to invite any one who is 50 or older to join us for lunch and an enjoyable time. The Cornerstones meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Hope to see you!

Methodist Minute — Continued

Key Bible Verses for May

(Continued from page 3)

May 29th The Grace of Giving – The Practice of Extravagant Generosity

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity” (2 *Corinthians* 9:11)

“The most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way...” (2 *Corinthians* 9: 11)

From the Pastor — Continued

(Continued from page 2)

and He is counting on us.

How can we make a difference? Listen to the words of Jesus as He told Mary to go and tell. Go and tell others about our risen savior and how He has changed your life. Become Easter people. Let the new life of Christ become the new life living in you. Christ is ALIVE.

Shalom,

Dean

Flying Squirrels Faith & Family Night

The Richmond Flying Squirrels are pleased to announce their 2nd annual Faith & Family Night on June 4, 2011. The purpose of this event is to host fellowship and worship of all faiths in a unique, family friendly setting. The evening is sure to be filled with excitement, FUNN, and Flying Squirrels Baseball.

In addition to fellowship at The Diamond, Faith & Family Night will be jam packed with entertainment. Pre and post game concerts will be held by family friendly bands as well as testimonials from Flying Squirrels Players! Great prizes will also be given away throughout the evening.

A number of discounted ticket packages are available from the Flying Squirrels. To purchase tickets simply call Amanda Shuman at 804-359-3866 x 327 or email her at:

amanda.shuman@squirrelsbaseball.com.



Greenwood Church Family Celebrations Birthdays

Izabel Stalnaker	May 2
Bob Stapleton	May 4
Page Jackson	May 26
Bob Smith	May 28
Steve Stalnaker	May 30



Anniversaries

Riley and Adamarye Patteson	May 2
Jackie and Bobby Schultz	May 8
Jaroa and Kevin Favilla	May 10
Frank Sotos and Kristen Bellino	May 19
Harry and Brenda Shuler	May 30

VBS — Save the Date!

Save the Date! Vacation Bible School will be August 1 – 5. Theme is Son Surf. The first planning session is May 16 at 7:30 p.m. All interested in helping with this fun project, please join us for this planning meeting.



Do You Want to be Healed?

(Continued from page 1)

years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

⁷"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

⁸Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

⁹At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Notice that the man's answer was not "yes, please!"

Instead, his response seems similar to an excuse for not trying. Reverend Forbes reasoned that the response would be appropriate for someone who considered himself a victim, appropriate for someone who believed that he could not improve his situation without help.



Jesus' response was brusque: "Take up your mat and walk." Was Jesus irritated with the whiny response to his question? Was He sympathetic in spite of the man's attitude? This is one miracle that does appear to have anything to do with the faith of the individual, unlike many of the miracles of healing.

Is this part of the good news for us, that Jesus will help us even when we are whiny and expect others to take care of us?

The sermon provided a totally different perspective to a short passage that we have heard many times, and one that we all have probably lumped in with the other healing miracles. But, it seems to contain a very unique message: God expects us to take action to help ourselves, and in spite of our inaction, He will still help us.

April 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
April 3	23	57	2,421
April 10	31	59	2,174
April 17	29	68	1,734
April 24	22	100	1,657
<i>April Totals</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>284</i>	<i>7,986</i>
<i>Weekly Averages:</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>1,996</i>

\$2,725 offering needed weekly to meet Greenwood's 2011 operating budget of \$141,712. Your generosity is appreciated

May Communion Offering



<http://www.caritasva.org/index.html>

The Twig Bender

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Fax: 804-266-2019
 After School Phone: 804-266-6668
 Email: admin@gumcva.org

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 11 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

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