

## 'Rockin' Wednesday' is a Hit

By Steve Stalnaker

Usually our *Twig Bender* lead article for this edition would be about Easter. Revs Dwight and Anita have Easter pretty well covered in their articles beginning

on pages 2 and 3 respectively. I want to write about an outreach phenomenon that's recently blessed Greenwood: "Rockin' Wednesday."

If you haven't heard of "Rockin' Wednesday," it's a new outreach program for children age 5 through middle school. The children (and adult volunteers) enjoy a free dinner, songs, crafts and Bible stories. The "Rockin'" comes from the notion that Jesus is the Rock on which we stand.

I personally enjoyed watching the "Rockin' Wednesday Dancers" – Rev. Anita Mays, Brenda Shuler and Glenda Stalnaker – teaching the kids the song that goes "Jesus is the rock Who rolls our blues away!" An added bonus

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### OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Please pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ*

Lawrence Allen, Virginia Agee, Brian Beckley Jr., Inis Blair, Evelyn Daniel, Ashley Draper, Roger Eckwright, Leola Frayser, Jennifer Friedline, Jane Gray Kibler, Pat Moran, Virginia Moran, Pamela Mortenson, Pam & Tucker Patteson, Winston Pulley, Betty & Harvey Roach, Benjamin Shannon, Lavelle Sheffield, Steve Sheffield, Carolyn Stone, Charlie Sprouse, Johnny Taylor, Ike Wagner, Mary Walker, Kim Winfrey

## From The Pastor

# Easter: Why I Don't Believe in Death

Recently we have experienced several losses in our congregation – people we love who are no longer with us in this world. Such experiences are always difficult as we seek to adjust to life without the physical presence of our beloved. As Christians, of course, we don't believe in the finality of death. We see it as only a transition from this world into the world to come.



My wife, who is a Hospice nurse, and I have both witnessed death many times, including the deaths of our own parents. I will never forget the death of my pastor father, Dwight L. Zavitz, Sr., who crossed his arms, said, “God has been faithful to me. I have been faithful to God. Thanks be to God.” and then took his last breath and passed into the arms of God.

I have stared death in the eyes in the emergency room with heart problems myself. But despite all of these experiences of death and dying – **I don't believe in death. I don't believe in death for two reasons: first, for natural reasons and secondly, for supernatural reasons.**

**Natural Reasons** not to believe in death: As we look at nature and experience the death of plants and trees in the winter and the rebirth of the natural world in spring, we can see that there is a never-ending cycle of life. Even when an animal dies, it is recycled

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Ministry of Christian Education

## *Living as an Easter People*

*By Rev. Anita Mays*

The last couple of months I have written about Lent, and the opportunity it gives Christians to journey to the cross.

Some of us have struggled to give up something we love in order to grow closer to Christ. For five weeks Greenwood and Laurel Park churches met together to reflect on Jesus' final words from the cross. The scripture readings during worship have often been challenging to hear and interpret.

All of this has occurred alongside news of senseless killing, racial tension, political mudslinging, and more. All of this means we have arrived. We have arrived at the foot of the cross to watch our Lord and Savior suffer and die for the sins of the world. Yet, just as we feel lost in doubt and despair, there are signs of hope.

I noticed each Sunday afternoon as I headed back to church for our Bible studies that the temperature grew increasingly warmer, the trees started filling with budding flowers, and tulips and daffodils pushed themselves up through the ground as if to tell us that spring has arrived. And as we studied Jesus' final words from the cross we were reminded that those were not his last words – for he would conquer death and return to earth, calling us to carry on his mission.

So we step out of the shadow of the cross and into the light of Easter morning. And each Sunday morning when we gather together to worship we are reminded that every Sunday is Easter. And

every time we walk out of the church doors and into the world we are to remember that we are an Easter people. We are a people with hope, with new life, and with good news to share with all the world. **Thanks be to God.**



## After School Ministry

## Spring has Sprung at the After School!

We are keeping busy at the After School with a lot of fun Spring activities! Since we've had great weather we've been spending a lot of our time outside; playing on the playground, coloring with chalk on the cement, investigating inch worms, and playing games such as kickball, "Octopus, Octopus," volleyball and badminton.

When we're hiding from the pollen inside we're working on homework, reading, watering and watching our potted plants grow, crafting beaded key chains, and working hard on our posters for the coloring contest. The After School kids and leadership are extremely grateful for the new chapter books and the



extra snacks for those who forget theirs for that day.

No article would be complete without saying a special thanks to all who have volunteered

supplies and their time to support the After School Program.

In the Spring we added volunteers Gay, Adamarye, Jean, Charlene and Lauren who have filled in during Lyndsey's absence. Lyndsey says she's "extremely appreciative of their willingness to give up their time because every day at the After School is unique. The days where there are toilet leaks, bloody noses, hyper children and kids needing extra attention on homework — those are the days where the volunteers extra

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# Lamb's Basket Needs Your Help

By Nancy Yeary

Because the Central Virginia Food Bank is under new management, the Lamb's Basket is struggling to get enough food for its clients.

The Food Bank no longer carries basic items like canned tuna. Some items, canned beef stew, for example, have gone up in price 500 percent. Lamb's Basket needs the churches that support it to help until we can sort through this issue. We are looking to find some way to buy canned goods from somewhere at wholesale prices

The need is great for **any** canned vegetables, **any** pasta, jelly and a multitude of other items that used to flow into our pantry. The shelves are basically empty. Your help is needed **now**.



Save the Date:

Vacation Bible School July 23 – 27

Planning Meeting April 25 at 7:15 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall



## Greenwood's Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 7 (the day before Easter) from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church. Easter Egg Hunt, cake walk, face painting, crafts, fun for all. Open to egg hunters of all ages.

## ***Ruth Circle News***

The Ruth Circle would like to thank everyone who bought our chocolate covered eggs or donated money towards the eggs to UMFS. We delivered 30 eggs to them. They were very appreciative and said the kids would really enjoy them.



We still have eggs left if anyone is interested in buying one. They are located in the kitchen on the counter. See any member of the circle to pay for them.

At our April meeting we will be packing goody boxes to send to the college students who are away from home. Don't forget to turn in names of students who will be graduating this May or June. They can be called into the office or given to Arline Shafer.

Two members of our circle volunteer at the after school program 3 days a week. We also have 3 members who volunteer for "Rockin Wednesday."

We will be meeting with Agnes Dalton Wednesday, April 4 at 7:15 p.m. If anyone would be interested in coming give Adamarye Patteson a call at 266-6364 for directions or a ride.

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## **FunRaiser's Bag Lunch**



... after worship services on Sunday, March 25 – \$7.00. \$7.00. Menu: Pork Bar-B-Q, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Apple Cake. Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office at 266-5341.

## *Willing Worker Circle News*

The Willing Workers Circle met at Charlotte Hodges' home in March. The meeting started with a nice devotion by Nancy Yeary. In order to keep in touch with some of our former members, we sent a "thinking of you card" to Jane Gray Kibler. Also we cooked a "thinking of you meal" for Catherine and Maywood Wallace.

We plan to send Easter cards to our shut ins. We voted to make a donation to Good Samaritan Ministries for Easter meals for the needy.

We learned that the After School program was out of copy paper and the children needed chapter books to read. We voted to donate some copy paper and 5 chapter books to them. The children are very excited about the books. Also Gay Stapleton provided a meal for "Rockin' Wednesday." Those children really enjoy eating and the activities.

We discussed the needs of the Lamb's Basket, they are in need of canned tuna, corn and other vegetables. Since the Central Virginia Food Bank is focusing on fresh produce the Lamb's Basket's need for canned foods has risen.

Thanks to Charlotte for sharing her beautiful flowers (in full bloom) with us. Our April meeting will be at the home of Charlene Hawkins on April 4 at 7:00 p.m., we would love to have you join us.





## From the Pastor

*(Continued from page 2)*

back into the great circle of life. Science tells us that nothing can ultimately be either created or destroyed. If I burn up a paper bag, it does not die. Its matter and energy merely change state from bag-ness into heat, fire, and smoke energy and are reabsorbed into the natural cycle. Modern physics is even hinting that there are many worlds and dimensions of life beyond this little speck we call our universe. Some scientists are also suggesting that consciousness is a kind of energy that precedes this life and endures after this lifetime.



Near-death experiences are another reason I don't believe in death. Book after book has been published detailing these experiences and I have talked with many parishioners over the years who have entered the world beyond and then returned to fulfill their mission here on Earth. My own mother had a powerful near-death experience when she was a young woman of 17. She left her body and was greatly amused that people were so concerned about her body and its survival. Fortunately for me, she returned to her body and this world to marry my father and eventually give birth to me!

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### April Communion Offering

*Lakeside Rescue Squad*

[www.lakesiderescue.org](http://www.lakesiderescue.org)





## *Don't Miss 'Rockin' Wednesday'*

*(Continued from page 1)*

was watching the dancers perform the hand motions that go with this song, even though none of them were in synch (see *incriminating photos at our web site.*) Regardless, the children loved it.

“Rockin’ Wednesday” continues to be a great success; the last one we had before press time, we had 13 children. Their numbers have multiplied since we started “Rockin’ Wednesday” in February; they tell each other how much fun it is.

These kids are fun, well-behaved and know their Bible stories. Come by some Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. to help cook the “Rockin’ Wednesday” meal, work with the children or just to enjoy the fun. As Glenda says, “you’re really missing out if you haven’t seen these kids at ‘Rockin’ Wednesday;’ they bring joy to my heart.”

Because school will be out for Spring Break, there will be no “Rockin’ Wednesday” on April 11.



### **Fellowship Dinner**

Wednesday, April 11 at 6:30p.m. \$5.00 Menu: Potato Soup, bologna and cheese sandwich, homemade apple sauce and banana pudding. Entertainment: 4 The Lord - Southern Gospel Quartet. Sign up on the insert in the bulletin or call the church office at 266-5341.

# After School Springtime

*(Continued from page 4)*

eyes on the kids and their leadership can make all the difference in the world. Again, "thank you."

A lot of fun things are happening during After School but we are so pleased that the church has taken on a new, wonderful ministry for children and especially for the children of the After School. Its amazing to watch the kids beg their parents to stay for "Rockin' Wednesdays" and share with their friends on Thursdays what they had to eat and what songs they sang. From our view, "Rockin' Wednesday" seems like a huge success which the church should be proud to have such a fruitful ministry for children!

We are looking forward to Holy Week and the coming months before school lets out!

## Church Office Volunteers

We have four volunteers and one alternate. This seems to be working well at this time but thinking ahead to summer and vacations we will have a need for at least another alternate.

The ladies staff the church office Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is not demanding work. For the most part volunteers are there to answer the phone, check messages and emails, take in and sort the mail. If you have extra time and would like to give a hand please call the church office at 266-5341 or Gay Stapleton at 672-8408.



# From the Pastor

*(Continued from page 8)*

All of these natural reasons are powerful suggestions that death is only a transition to another dimension of life – and not the final act of our drama. While all of this is fascinating, for me the final reason I don't believe in death is the most important. **This is the supernatural reason not to believe in the finality of death.** Jesus the Christ proclaimed, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (*John 1: 25-26*) at the tomb of Lazarus and then raised him from death to life.

This same Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day by the power of God to defeat death and the powers of darkness and evil for all time. The Resurrection demonstrated once and for all that death has no dominion over those who are mystically united with God in Christ.

Easter is not just bunnies and eggs and pretty dresses on one spring Sunday a year. **Easter is the most important event in world history.** Easter is the reason we don't have to believe in death. Easter is the reason we can stand beside a grave with hope in our hearts and proclaim – "Because he lives, we also shall live!" The Resurrection means that you and those you love will live forever in the presence of Jesus in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now that's Good News. That's the best news ever!! Have a wonderful Easter celebration on April 8 and every day of your life!!

Love and Peace,

*Dwight*



# Greenwood Church Family



## Birthdays

Arline Shafer .....	4/1
Seth Lahocki .....	4/6
Bill Prout.....	4/7
Joan Sipe .....	4/8
Carolyn Smith.....	4/12
Lou Gammon .....	4/13
LaVelle Sheffield.....	4/19
Roger Eckwright.....	4/22
Kenny Sipe.....	4/23
Douglas Banks .....	4/24
Betty Roach.....	4/30

## Anniversaries

Glenda & Steve Stalnaker .....	4/10
Charlene & Maurice Hawkins .....	4/10

### Say Your Prayers

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:17-19*

“Whether you like it or not, read and pray daily. It is for your life; there is no other way; else you will be a trifler all your days ... Do justice to your soul; give it time and means to grow. Do not starve yourself any longer.” — John Wesley

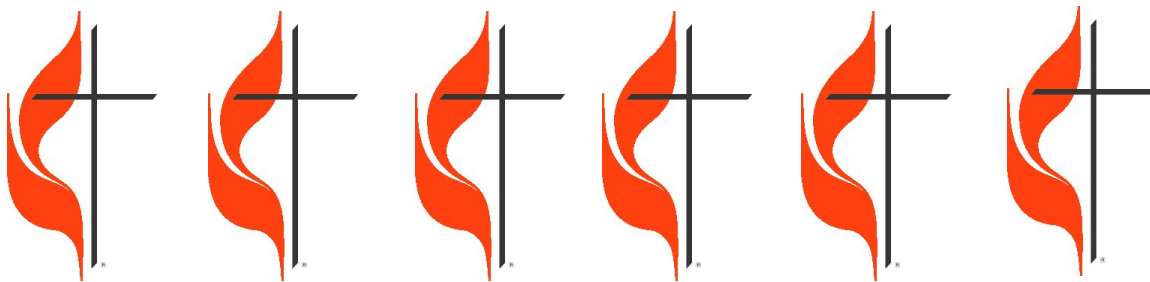


## March Attendance and Offerings

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

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Giving
March 4	25	47	\$ 2,973
March 11	23	47	\$ 1,679
March 18	22	51	\$ 1,331
March 27	30	53	\$ 1,316
<b>March Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>\$ 7,299</b>
<i>Weekly Averages</i>	25	50	\$ 1,825

\$2,297 offering is needed weekly in 2012 to meet Greenwood’s operating budget of \$138,942. Your generosity is appreciated



### **The Twig Bender**

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Worship	11 a.m.	© 2012 Greenwood UMC — all rights reserved	