

Greenwood UMC



THE TWIG BENDER

July
2012

From The Pastor

Meet Reverend Barbara Lewis

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ. I am your newly appointed pastor and am excited to be serving with you in ministry as servants for Christ.

My name is Barbara Lewis, and I hope you will feel comfortable calling me "Barbara." I come to you having served as a pastor in the Virginia Conference for the last 11 years.

Prior to that, I had a variety of work experience, working in retail,

as a secretary, as a gopher, sling- ing fast food, and as a youth pas- tor. Much of my adult life has been spent in and around Richmond, but I have lived in a variety of communities throughout the state of Virginia. My extended family co- vers the rest of the state and parts of North Carolina. Friends joke that wherever we go together, I will always run into someone I know.

OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Please pray for these brothers
and sisters in Christ*

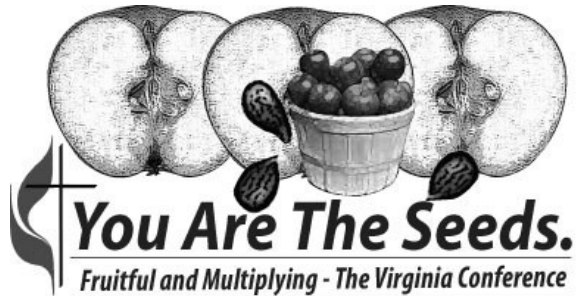
Virginia Agee, Brian Beckley Jr.,
Ashley Draper, Roger Eckwright,
Leola Frayser, Pat Moran, Virginia
Moran, Pamela Mortenson, Winston
Pulley, Betty & Harvey Roach, Ben-
jamin Shannon, Lavelle Sheffield,
Steve Sheffield, Carolyn Stone,
Charlie Sprouse, Johnny Taylor, Ike
Wagner, Mary Walker, Kim Winfrey,
Harold Yeary

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Virginia Annual Conference 2012 Report

By Steve Stalaker

Appointment of our new pastor, fiscal revisions and the addition of 20 new faith communities highlighted the 2012 Virginia Annual Conference last month.



All readers are probably aware that Rev. Barbara Lewis has been appointed as pastor of the Greenwood/Laurel Park charge. At this year's conference, the appointment, along with all other appointments in the Virginia Conference, were "fixed" (that is, confirmed) by Bishop Charlene Kammerer. Read Rev. Lewis' article beginning on page 1.

We heard about budgetary reductions at both the conference and overall church levels. At this year's General Conference, the United Methodist Church worldwide set its 2013 budget at \$600 million, a 7 per cent reduction over 2012. The Virginia Conference also reduced its budget by 1.7 per cent to almost \$32 million.

Of immediate interest to Twig Bender readers is the reduction in apportionments in reflection of the Virginia Conference's 2013 budget. Another aspect of fiscal responsibility announced at Conference was transparency. Delegates have long asked for an accounting of how the Conference spent the money we send it. That transparency will begin with the publishing of the year's "actual" budget expenditures in next year's Book of Reports (the primary report document for the Annual Conference.)

The conference honored retiring Bishop Charlene Kammerer, who has led the Virginia Conference for the past eight years.

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Ministry of Christian Education

United Methodism 101 – Part 2

By Rev. Anita Mays

(See the June issue of The Twig Bender for part one)

Another important ingredient of Wesleyan theology is what's called "The Wesleyan Quadrilateral." It basically explains that we use four sources to come to theological conclusions: first and foremost is Scripture, but we also rely on tradition, reason and experience. I have mentioned this in our Bible studies as a way of explaining that scripture doesn't stand alone. We are able to responsibly engage and interpret scripture through the application of tradition, reason and experience.

I would be remiss without mentioning another important part of what it means to be United Methodist... we sing our faith. This goes back to Charles Wesley (John's brother) who wrote thousands of hymns. Still popular today, these hymns include "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing", "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today."

I am sure that in a few paragraphs I have not done justice to all that it means to be United Methodist. But I hope that you have learned something you didn't know before and/or that you have been inspired to do your own research to learn more about our history and tradition. In summary, the official mission statement of The United Methodist Church is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." May the people of Greenwood United Methodist Church continue to live out this mission by "loving God, connecting and growing with God, and serving others."



VBS July 23 – 27 at SonRise National Park (a.k.a. Greenwood UMC)

Get ready for a Vacation Bible School your children will never forget.

Get ready for exciting wilderness thrills as your children head out to beautiful SonRise National Park, where kids will learn to trust Jesus as their all-powerful guide and Savior!

As they participate in fun-filled activities, children will be pointed directly to Jesus. We will have a great time with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks—all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for children.

Most importantly, children will discover Jesus provides what they truly need in every challenge of life.

SonRise National Park can be an inspirational and educational experience for your entire family. Classes run from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each day. Plan now to join us for a great time at SonRise National Park!

It's not too late to volunteer to help guide our kids through Sonrise National Park. Come join us for the fun and fellowship!

Open to children ages 3 through 12. Sign up today!



From the Pastor

Meet Rev. Lewis

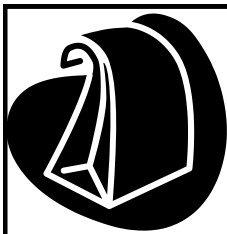
(Continued from page 1)

I do like to travel, and have been on three continents and have visited 5 foreign countries. Some of my travel has been educational, some just for fun and other travel has been connected to mission trips. I love getting involved, meeting new people, and learning about the issues facing different communities.

For a while, my family thought I was going to be a career student. My call to ministry came early while I was in my teens. I tried to find ways of serving God faithfully without entering pastoral ministry and explored becoming a teacher. But when one is going down a path different from God's plan, obstacles keep appearing, doors close, and stumbling occurs. I stumbled around for quite a while before finally taking a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and finding myself working as a church secretary at Ginter Park UMC, at Westview on the James, and at Calvary UMC with their children's and youth ministry.

The call came stronger and stronger with more focus and I enrolled at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of

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No Fellowship Dinner or FunRaisers Bag
Lunches in July or August

From the Pastor

Meet Rev. Lewis

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Christian Education as a part-time student. Several years later, I was graduated with a Master of Arts in Christian Education and a Master of Divinity Degree.

While in seminary, I was appointed to serve the Buckingham Charge (Browns Chapel, Hanes Chapel, and Rocky Mount). When I graduated, I was serving as a full-time local pastor of a three-point charge in Greensville County (Greensville Charge: Independence, Mount Pleasant, Saint Andrew's).

Since graduation, I have fulfilled my love of learning with mission trips, continuing education opportunities and reading. I also love learning new skills and have spent some time the last year learning new knitting techniques and patterns. I also enjoy several other handcrafts.

My mission trips have taken me as far away as Brazil (twice) and as close to home as working with the church youth collecting food

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July Communion
Offering

Sheltering Arms

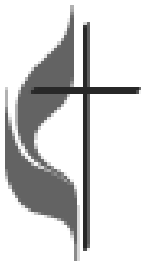
www.shelteringarms.com/



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
Greenwood Men's Group Meets for Breakfast, 8 a.m. 1 st Saturday each Month	Roger Eckwright 804-328-4688



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

From the Pastor

Meet Rev. Lewis

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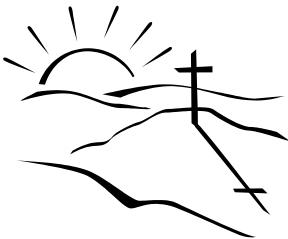
for the local food pantry where we volunteered our time to organize donated food and double check expiration dates.

In Brazil, I participated in a United Methodist Volunteer In Mission (UMVIM) project with the Shade and Fresh Water Program that is part of our Annual Conference Offering this year. One year, I worked at a project in Belo Horizonte, and another year in Manaus.

While living in Emporia and later in Brunswick County, I volunteered as a chaplain at the local hospital. Many of the individuals and their families requesting a chaplain had no church home of their own to turn to in their time of crisis. After last year's hurricane, I helped evaluate the damage in Greenville County to help the United Methodist Committee on Relief determine the type of response needed to help the community in the aftermath of disaster. This was also part of an UMVIM project.

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Good Morning, This is God.



I will be handling all your problems today.

I will not need your help.

So, relax and have a great day

After School Ministry

2011-2012 Wrap Up

I just want to say thank you for a great year! Being Greenwood's After School Director has been a great experience for me. I hope that it has been a great experience for all those involved as well. Amy Yeary is a delight to work with; I couldn't have done it without her.



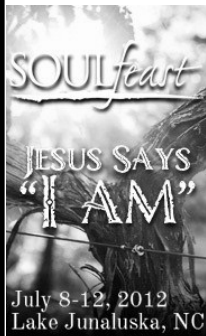
As of now, the After School ministry has 7 kids whose parents have tentatively indicated they will be back in September. I'm hoping you will have good numbers again next year.

Thank you again for all your support throughout this year. God Bless You and Your Ministry!

Peace of Christ be with you!

Lyndsey McCall

SOULfeast 2012 July 8-12 at Lake Junaluska



Are you in search of experiences and relationships that will nourish your soul? By mixing ingredients from the great traditions of the church as well as fresh new Christian expressions, SOULfeast creates an experience that adults, youth, and children will enjoy. Find out more about SOULfeast at

<http://soulfeast.upperroom.org/>

2012 Conference Report

(Continued from page 2)

On a less positive note, we learned that, at the UMC General Conference in Tampa earlier this year, little was done to adapt or change the church in America to cope with current realities.

Rev. Tom Berlin, head of the Virginia delegation said that the Annual Conference is best at breeding cynicism. But, he invited us to shed that cynicism, set aside broken expectations, and consider their mutual love of the church. "You can do good every day and no one will vote you down," Berlin said.

Read a full Conference report at:

<http://www.vaumc.org/ncfilerepository/ac2012/Wrapup2012.pdf>

Church Office Volunteers

We are still looking for volunteers or alternates to staff the church office. At this time of year with vacations coming up we need alternates to cover for our regular volunteers. The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you can help just give the church office a call at 804-266-5341 or Gay Stapleton 804-672-8408.



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

From the Pastor

Meet Rev. Lewis

(Continued from page 8)

My family is also very important to me, and I am delighted to be living only a few miles from my parents, David and Lieu Lewis, in Chesterfield, and my brother and sister in law, Robert and Rachel Lewis, in Charlottesville, and my sister and her husband, Elizabeth and Michael McCoy near Williamsburg. My household companions are all four-footed, furry, purr-y creatures.



Church has always been central in my life. I grew up in a parsonage – my father is a United Methodist pastor who is officially retired, but still serving a church in Dinwiddie County, Smith’s Grove UMC. My mother’s vocation is as a Christian Educator who has worked in a variety of settings from Pre-kindergarten through College settings, local church, district work, and as a Conference employee.

God uses us in a variety of ways. I believe that many of my life experiences were geared to preparing me for what God has planned for me now and in the future. I look forward to the path God has prepared for you and me in the coming months and years.

Grace and Peace,

Barbara



Greenwood Church Family Birthdays



Isaiah Robinson.....	7/3
Courtney Neagle	7/4
Jennifer Friedline.....	7/5
Dorothy Powell	7/7
Brad Lahocki	7/23
Raymond Ritchie	7/24
Rita Robinson.....	7/27
Kyle Lahocki.....	7/28
Cole Morgan.....	7/30

Anniversaries

Janice & Charley Banks	7/12
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Altar Flowers



If you'd like to remember or honor someone with flowers on the altar, you can sign up to do so on the chart that's posted in the hall outside the church office.

Altar flowers cost \$20. We prefer payment by check; please make your check out to Greenwood UMC and put "Altar Flowers" on the memo line.

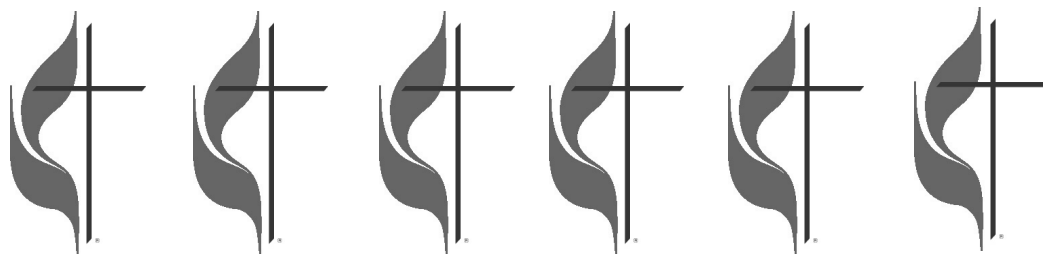
Please send your payments to the church office within a week before or after the Sunday your flowers appear on the altar.

June 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
June 3	26	47	\$ 2,506
June 10	25	44	\$ 2,324
June 17	28	52	\$ 3,918
June 24	19	35	\$ 1,303
June Totals	98	18	\$ 10,051
<i>Weekly Averages</i>	<i>24.5</i>	<i>44.5</i>	<i>\$ 2,513</i>

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



The Twig Bender

is a publication of **Greenwood United Methodist Church**

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Pastor's Cell 434-594-6241
 Fax: 804-266-2019
 After School Phone: 804-266-6668
 Email: admin@gumcva.org

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 11 a.m.

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 Minister of Christian Education Rev. Anita Mays
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 webmaster@gumcva.org

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