

Greenwood UMC



THE TWIG BENDER

**August
2012**

Minister of Christian Education

A Farewell Message of Thanks

These many months of ministry at Greenwood and Laurel Park churches have been a blessing to me, and it is with a heavy heart that I must leave my position as Minister of Christian Education.

However, I believe that this opportunity to enroll in the New Testament PhD program at Brite Divinity School is the door that God is opening for me at this time in my life. There are many things that I will miss about Richmond, but I will especially miss my work with these two churches.

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, Gordon Ragland, Betty and Harvey Roach, Benjamin Shannon, Lavelle Sheffield, Steve Sheffield, Charlie Sprouse, Carolyn Stone, Johnny Taylor, Ike Wagner, Mary Walker, Maywood Wallace, Kim Winfrey, Harold Yeary

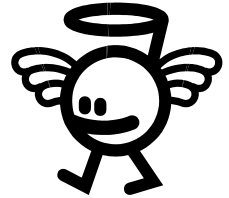
Unfortunately, it's a little too far to commute from Fort Worth, TX every week! There are many things that I will miss about Greenwood – Gay's beautiful altar decorations, Patty's fabulous preludes, Betty and Charlotte's fellowship

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From the Pastor

Giving Thanks to the Saints

In the fall of the year, near the beginning of Advent, we talk about All Saints Day, when we remember all the people who have gone before us and helped form us into the Christians we are by their presence, their guidance, their faith, and their testimony to us.



As I begin my ministry here at Greenwood and Laurel Park churches, I give thanks for the saints who have ministered here and helped form you into the churches you are today. Over the last couple of months, I have had the opportunity to talk with some of your former pastors and hear their perspective on who you have been and who you are today. I see the influence of different pastors with different gifts and graces. Dean and Dwight, Anita and others all have guided and influenced the members of these churches and I give thanks for that ministry. I know each of you has helped to shape them into the people they are today by your witness.

As we say goodbye to Anita and give thanks for her ministry we know she is taking a piece of Greenwood and Laurel Park with her. She will be forever changed by her time here as we each are by having met her, worshipped with her and witnessed with her.

In the coming months, let us give thanks for the witness of the Christian saints who have impacted our lives and faith. Let us also be aware of how we impact others' lives. Let us give great witness to our faith as we minister together in the community and help others grow in the faith.

Grace and Peace,

Barbara

Vacation Bible School

SonRise National Park — WOW!

By Brenda Shuler

WOW! is the word I would use to describe our Vacation Bible School, “Sonrise National Park” this year. The weather was hot, but we all survived and had a terrific week.

We had a group of dedicated leaders and kids. There were thirty to forty kids and seventeen leaders. Blessed Hands Day Care joined us this year and they had helpers who remained with our groups.

Everyone enjoyed the opening where Ranger Anita and Ranger Steve introduced us to the day’s theme, showed us a video about survivor games and taught us some songs.

After that, we divided into groups and went to our different stations. During the morning each group went to four stations. Each day, we had a theme, True Peace, True Riches, True Power, True Love and True Hope, and all of our activities went with our theme.

There were animals representing each day and in the pre-school room the students learned a rhyme. All of our students learned the rhyme, but one of our students would say, “I am a caribou. I hang out with my nerd.” The word was supposed to be herd.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped make this year’s Vacation Bible School a great success.



Refined Silver

Some women in a Bible study were puzzled by Malachi 3:3: “He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.” They wondered what this verse might mean about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to look into the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

She made an appointment with a silversmith to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest, to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: “He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.” She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

He answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

She was silent for a moment, and then asked the silversmith, “How do you know when the silver is fully refined?” He smiled and answered, “Oh, that's easy – when I see my image in it.”

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.



Minister of Christian Education

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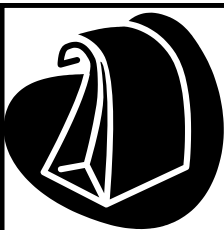
dinner menus, Jordan's candle lighting, Linda's children's messages, the kids of Rockin' Wednesdays, and yes, even Steve's sarcasm (*ed. note: "who, me?"*) and Maurice's sense of humor!

But what I will miss most of all, is the love and passion this church has for God and especially for God's word. I have been inspired by your many expressions of strong faith, and I have grown a lot in my own faith because of the challenging discussions during Bible studies.

It has been a great reminder to me that although people's beliefs and theologies may differ, it is love of God and a commitment to sharing that love with the world that unites us. I told many of my colleagues in ministry how impressed I was with the number of people who showed up with enthusiasm for each of the three Bible studies I led. It is that kind of faithfulness and witness that will enable both Greenwood and Laurel Park churches to continue to grow and succeed in ministry.

It is my hope that you will continue to deeply engage in God's word and seek God's will, even if it means allowing your beliefs to

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Fellowship Dinners and FunRaisers Bag
Lunches will resume in September

Annual School Supplies Drive

Make an instant impact on Henrico County's at risk students by helping them get the school supplies they need. As we do every year at this time, we're collecting school supplies for needy students.

Approximately 35% of Henrico County students are considered economically deprived. Your donations of these school supplies will help these students to be successful in the classroom.

Through Sunday, August 19, we'll be collecting items for the students at Longdale Elementary and our own Greenwood Afterschool program. Below is a list of school supplies you can donate. This list will also be posted on our website and in the church narthex.

We need your donated school supplies in the sanctuary by Sunday, August 19.



School Supplies List

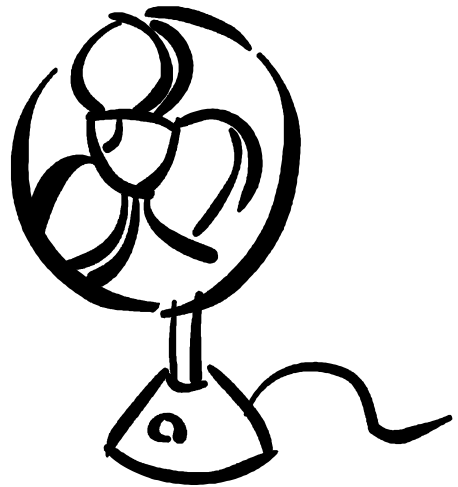
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Highlighters | Lined index cards |
| Pocket folders | Washable markers |
| Crayons | Book bags/backpacks |
| Plastic pencil boxes | #2 pencils |
| 1 and 3 subject notebooks | Glue sticks |
| Black and white composition books | Notebook paper (wide-ruled) |

From The Trustees

Shower, AC Replacement on Track

The addition of the shower in the lady's bathroom in the fellowship hall will begin the first week of August. The shower should be ready well before Greenwood hosts CARITAS at the end of September.

The Sanctuary air conditioner is about 40 years old and this hot summer has really put a strain on it. We have awarded a contract to replace it. We expect the work to start in the third week of August and be finished in time for worship services on Sunday, August 26. In the meantime, pray for cooler weather!



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.

All Sundays in August are Available!



God Loves a Cheerful Giver

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

“As it is written: ‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; righteousness endures forever.’

“ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

2 Corinthians 9:7-11 (NIV)



The Willing Workers Circle

Even though the circle has not been meeting during the summer, this does not mean we have been idle. We have continued to support the Lambs Basket with the circle's donations of cleaning and laundry supplies. Our members also helped with VBS again this year. We had a great VBS.



Our next meeting will be September 5 at 7:00 p.m. at Glenda Stalnaker's home. Come meet with us; we would love to have you.

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be challenged, for I have found that it is in those times of vulnerability that knowledge and faith can grow the most.

I also hope that you will continue to be active in mission – supporting programs like the Lamb’s Basket, Aggie’s Attic, the Boy Scouts, and serving as a strong witness to the community through ministries like the After-School program and Rockin’ Wednesdays.

These are all wonderful ways to carry out the church’s mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and I hope that through your hospitality, invitation, and accountability to one another that more and more people will become involved in these ministries.

With God’s help, and under the fine leadership of your new pastor, I am sure that God has wonderful things in store for you. Thank you for the way you have welcomed me, supported me, and allowed me to challenge you. May God continue to bless you and your ministry.



“Ranger” Anita at VBS last month.

With love and gratitude,

Anita

August Communion Offering

Freedom House

Freedom House's ministries include:

- **Conrad Center Soup Kitchen**, serving over 48,000 breakfast and dinner meals to Richmond's homeless and working-class poor since 1983.
- **The Community Shelter**, providing transitional housing services to single adults. 83% of residents who stay 6 months or longer successfully move to permanent housing.
- **Sean's Place**, an 18 month "step up" home for men and women continuing their journey to self-sufficiency. 98% of our residents move into permanent housing.

Read more at the Freedom House web site:



<http://freedomhouserichmond.org/>

1201 Hull St. Richmond, Virginia 23224



Scrap Booking

With our next meeting on September 18, the scrap bookers will resume meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. We meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a lot of fun summer pictures that need a home. Any one is welcome to join us.

Mark Your Calendar

Great Goings On at Greenwood

Visit Our Website for More Information

- **After School Ministry** — 2012 - 2013 School Year session opens on September 4.
- **Glen Allen Day** — Visit our Greenwood Pavilion at Glen Allen Day on September 15, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Meadow Farm Museum – Crump Park.
- **CARITAS** — September 23 - 29.
- **Charge Conference** — Greenwood/ Laurel Park charge conference, October 28, 4 p.m. at Greenwood.
- **Fall Family Fun Fair**— Saturday, November 3 at Greenwood.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

Church Office Volunteers

The volunteers are staffing the church office Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We have a full staff plus two alternates. We are looking forward to working with Barbara, our new pastor.





Greenwood Church Family Birthdays



Linda Wagner.....	8/2
Nancy Yeary.....	8/3
Mike Workman.....	8/4
Virginia Wagner	8/7
Alan Daniel	8/9
Ray Smith	8/13
Kristen Bellino.....	8/14
Jeannette Jackson.....	8/14
Gay McFarland	8/18
Gina Lahocki.....	8/22

Anniversaries

Patty & Bill Prout	8/14
Jamie & Jason Smith	8/20
Teresa & Darrell Coleman.....	8/24
Carolyn & Ray Smith.....	8/29

Greenwood UMC Mission

“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”

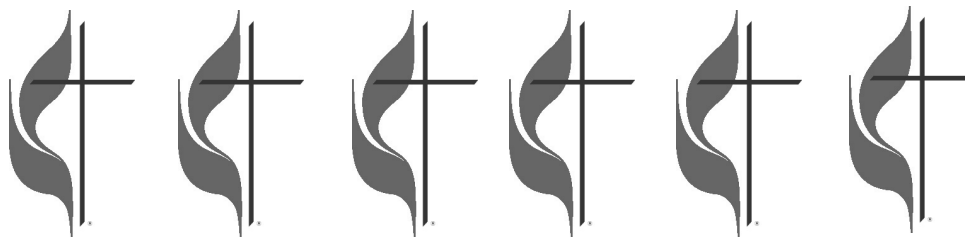
– Matthew 28:19

July 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
July 1	25	54	2,287
July 8	21	37	1,547
July 15	22	36	2,283
July 22	26	44	1,191
July 29	26	78	1,232
July Totals	120	249	8,731
<i>Weekly Averages</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>1,746</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

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 11 a.m.

Pastor Rev. Barbara Lewis

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Visit our web site at www.gumcva.org

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