



*Greenwood UMC*

# THE TWIG BENDER

February  
2013

## Changes and Plans

*By Steve Stalnaker*

As Glenda and I were composing our annual Christmas card letter last December, I was reminded of all the changes at Greenwood back in 2012.

It's only natural at this time of year to look back over the previous year, reflect on what's happened and note how richly God continues to bless us. The Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge has had lots of changes – blessings – for which to be thankful in 2012.

Changes began when **Rev. Dean Pittman** was placed on the injured reserve list in February.

That led to the blessing of our interim pastor, **Rev. Dwight Zavitz**, who's preaching style brought a different look and feel to the Charge's pulpits – who can forget his dressing up as St. Patrick?

Because Dwight's was an interim appointment, the Virginia Conference was obliged to appoint a full time pastor to the Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge.

### OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Please pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ*

Elsie Allen, Inis Blair, Ashley Draper, Roger Eckwright, Pat Moran, Virginia Moran, Pamela Mortenson, Lisa Pateson, Dean Pittman, Betty and Harvey Roach, Benjamin Shannon, Tommy Sheets, Lavelle Sheffield, Steve Sheffield, Kimberley Shuler, Teresa and Bobby Skloss, William Smith, Carolyn Stone, Lou Talley, Johnny Taylor, Catherine Wallace, Kim Winfrey, Harold Yeary, Jennifer Yeary

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From the Pastor

## Vital Congregations

Our denomination is always trying to find ways to improve how we share God's Word and help our members be more faithful disciples.

This year, as part of that effort, we are recording some key indicators of how our congregations are doing on a weekly basis. This is so that we have data to help us see trends within congregations, within particular communities, and so that we have ways of comparing how our congregation is measuring up to other congregations of similar size or in the same geographical area.

These indicators include how much we spent this week (dollars) on mission, the number of people (volunteers) involved *in mission* from our congregation to transform the world, the number of people attending worship, the number of people who are studying the scriptures in Bible Studies or other related topics or are participating in

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## Greenwood Planning Conference



In January, GUMC spent a Saturday morning looking at our resources, our strengths, what we do already to strengthen our members in discipleship, and talking about where God is calling us to be.

This is just the beginning of the conversation as we discern how God will use this congregation in the coming weeks and years. Watch for more opportunities to share in the planning of our calendar and be in ministry within this community.

Minister of Christian Education

## Lenten Bible Study Focuses on Non-Violent Resistance

Our Lenten Study this spring focuses on the cultural context into which Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:38-41 were offered:

You have heard it said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist an evil-doer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. (NRSV)

For modern-day Christians, these words taken at face value might sound like Jesus teaches us to let people walk all over us, to be nice at all cost, and not to resist injustice in any way. But to first century ears, Jesus' teachings in this text were heard very differently.

In this study, Pastor Denise will lead us as we dig deeper into this text and other passages from the Old Testament to understand the context of Jesus' teachings. Using the best tools of biblical scholarship at our disposal, we will try to hear what Jesus' first century hearers might have heard him saying. Together we will then try to make sense of what these teachings might mean for people who want to follow the way of Jesus today.

We will also look at the ways modern Christian leaders have been inspired by Jesus' teachings on non-violent resistance and draw



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Greenwood After School

## All Set for Spring Session

*By Porter Schermerhorn*

After a two-week Christmas break, our after school program recommenced on January 7, with nine bright and beautiful children enrolled.

In the recent fall session, we celebrated **3 birthdays** and went on **2 major field trips** (to Henrico Fire Station 21 and to Jeff Sears' Farm and Pumpkin Patch). We spent an hour each day reading/doing homework; invested hours in learning cooking and arts and crafts; spent 15-20 minutes per day in devotional activities; learned more about Christ and Christianity in our weekly Chapel program, led by Pastors Barbara and Denise; and worked off tons of energy playing indoor and outdoor games.

We learned how to **plant pumpkin seeds**, and how to cooperate with first responders in an emergency situation. We got up close and personal with **baby farm animals**. We made mosaics and scarecrows; hand-painted about **30 Christmas tree ornaments**; and had a fantastic Christmas party. Special thanks to the Ruth and Willing Workers Circles for helping us with birthday parties and the children's Christmas gifts! And thanks to the entire Church family for your generous support of Greenwood After School!

With your continued support, we plan to have an even better, more exciting Spring session.

This semester, we have a **regularly scheduled cooking session** each Thursday called "Cookin' with Mr. Porter and Ms. Amy." On Martin Luther King Day we visited the **Virginia Aviation Museum**. On January 28 we took a field trip to the **Museum of Fine Arts**.

There's a lot of school year left, so watch this space for future activities. Please stop by and visit us. We may even put you to work.



## LAMB's Basket Update

*By Nancy Yeary*

How does a person become a client at LAMB's Basket? Ann, a volunteer at the pantry who works exclusively in this area, wrote this to explain the process to us:

"The Lakeside Area Ministers' Board (LAMB) set up the LAMB's Basket program to assist needy residents of Henrico County. Each client must have a picture ID and a recent utility bill to receive groceries. After clients receive groceries on the first visit, they fill out a form showing household income and family size. Clients must also provide proof (birth certificates or custody papers) that the children they are claiming are their children. This is to insure that we are practicing wise stewardship with money that is given to support the pantry, and that groceries are given to the neediest in the community."

On January 23, TV Channel 8 news came to the warehouse to do a feature story on the pantry. The feature was aired during the evening news on Friday, January 25, and during the morning news the next day.

New officers and board members were elected and installed at the LAMB's Basket's annual meeting, which is opened to the public, on the third Tuesday of January. This is going into the third year that I will be serving on the board of directors.

God is good and has blessed LAMB's Basket with an abundance of food at this time, but keep in mind our clients also need non edible products like laundry detergent, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. Anything that you care to donate is very much appreciated and may God bless you for your thoughtfulness.



## Confirmation Class Starts in February

*By Rev. Barbara Lewis*

Beginning February 3, we are offering confirmation class for youth who are in fifth grade or above.

Over the next 6 weeks, the youth will study church history, Christian beliefs, the history of the United Methodist Church, its structure, how it works, and of course, scripture.

The confirmation class will meet Sundays at Greenwood following services (about 12:30 p.m.) and will begin with lunch on February 3. From there the participants will choose where we will meet each week. The final session will be as part of a Virginia Annual Conference sponsored retreat at Westview on the James Retreat Center in Goochland County.

The confirmands need your prayers and encouragement as they go through this study and then decide, with God's help, if they are ready to profess their faith and become active members of their respective congregations. Right now, we have one youth from each church planning to participate in the study sessions. If you would like to help with the cost of the retreat, you may make a contribution to the church and mark it "confirmation retreat."



Several adults have expressed interest in a confirmation refresher course. If you are one, please let Pastor Denise or Pastor Barbara know. After Easter, Denise and Barbara are looking at offering topic related classes on church history, United Methodism, and other subjects that would be covered in a confirmation class for all who may be interest-

## Hermitage Update

## Come See all the Changes

*By Arline Shafer, Hermitage Representative (and Resident)*

Things are changing at The Hermitage. Rooms are being changed. Come visit at The Hermitage and see the changes.

The Country Store will move from the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of E Wing after the January 25 sale to the basement and will resume sales in March.

The Sewing Room, where I volunteer, will stay on 4E but may move “around the corner.”

The lobby will soon add a ramp, replacing the present “lift”; the Business Office will move to where the chaplains, Denise Bennett and George Nelson now work. Denise and George will move to a room near the Chapel.



The Library (wing 2D, near the Chapel) and Gift Shop (1<sup>st</sup> floor next to the Parlor) will remain the same for now. (I volunteer both places.)

See the beautiful Chapel. We hope to see soon the new chairs your Hermitage Guild is purchasing for the Social Hall. This past year they bought outdoor cushions, a garden umbrella, a lighted fountain, landscaping in the rock garden, two trees and fold-in-the wall ironing boards.

A special program was held last Fall to honor longtime volunteer Hilda Taylor, who has been a driving force in the Guild since the opening of the Snyder Home, predecessor to the Hermitage, decades ago. Hilda has won national recognition for her years of hard work and dedication.

Learn more about the Hermitage Guild. Know the Hermitage, a fine place to live.

*Mark Your Calendars ...*



February

- 2 ..... Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m.
- 3 ..... Confirmation Class begins, 12:30 p.m.
- 4 ..... Finance Committee meets, 7 p.m.
- 6 ..... Women’s Circles meet
- 10 ..... Boy Scout Sunday
- ..... Education Team meets 4 p.m.
- 13 ..... Ash Wednesday worship service LPUMC, 7 p.m.
- 14 ..... St. Valentine’s Day
- 15 — 16 ..... Friendship Quilters
- 17 ..... Lenten Bible Study begins at GUMC, 5 p.m.
- 18 ..... President’s Day (church office open)
- 20 ..... Cornerstones 11:30 a.m.
- 21 ..... Lenten Bible Study begins at LPUMC, 10:30 a.m.
- 23 ..... Cub Scout banquet, Fellowship Hall, 6 :30 p.m.
- 24 ..... FunRaisers Bag Lunches — pick up after worship services
- 25 ..... *The Twig Bender* deadline

March

- 24 ..... *Palm Sunday*
- 28 ..... *Maundy Thursday worship service at Greenwood, 7 p.m.*
- 29 ..... *Good Friday*
- 30 ..... *Annual Easter Egg Hunt*
- 31 ..... *Easter Sunday*



## Vital Congregations

*(Continued from page 2)*

other small groups to help keep them accountable as good disciples, and the number of people who are joining our church by profession of faith (never been a church member anywhere before).

You can help us by letting us know when your small group meets and how much your group sent to support mission projects, or when you have volunteered in mission projects. The information can be put on the pew card or other paper and placed in the offering plate or you can call the church office before noon on Mondays and leave a message.



Peace and Grace

*Barbara*

## Be Prepared — Read the Scriptures

Here are the February lectionary readings you can review during the week in preparation for upcoming worship services.

February 3	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
February 10	Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-26 (27-43a)
Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:21b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 17	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
February 24	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philipians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

## Lenten Bible Study Starts February 17

*(Continued from page 3)*

some principles for living non-violently and prophetically as a loving Christian witness in our world today.

The Lenten Study, “Jesus’ Third Way: Creative Non-violence as a Loving Witness”, will be offered in five sessions at two times/places:

- Sunday afternoons at 5 p.m. at Greenwood – February 17 to March 17.
- Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at Laurel Park – February 21 to March 21.

Anyone from either congregation is welcome at either study, and friends are also welcome. Since each session builds on the previous sessions, it is most helpful if you can commit to attending all the sessions, even if you need to switch site/time in order to do so. For more information, see Pastor Denise.

### *Eating Opportunities*

**Fellowship Dinner** – Because the usual day for Fellowship Dinners — the second Wednesday of the month — falls on Ash Wednesday (February 13), there will be no February Fellowship Dinner this month.

However, we’ll be back on March 13. Watch the bulletin for the menu and sign up forms.

**FunRaiser’s Bag Lunch** – after worship services on Sunday, February 24. For only \$7.00 you get Beans and franks, macaroni salad, chips and apple cake . Sign up on the list in the church narthex, call the church office at (804) 266-5341 or e-mail [admin@gumcva.org](mailto:admin@gumcva.org).



Ruth Circle Easter Eggs  
Order Form



Delicious, Hand Dipped, Half Pound, Beautifully Decorated \$4.50 each — Your choice of filling; order by March 17.

Eggs will be ready on Palm Sunday, March 24.

Also available: little eggs to donate to UMFS — 2 for \$5.00.

*Please pay when ordering  
Thank you for your order*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Filling	How Many?
Peanut Butter	_____
Coconut	_____
Cream	_____
UMFS Eggs	_____

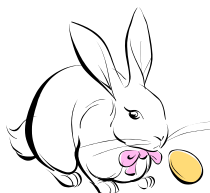
Ruth Circle

... will meet Wednesday, February 6 at 7 p.m. at the home of Adamarye Patteson.

We will continue with our Bible study. We will be making plans for the Easter eggs we will be making on March 23. If you are interested in ordering one or more of these delicious eggs see any member of our circle or fill out the order form at the left. We will be making cream, coconut and peanut butter.

The cost is \$4.50 for an 8 ounce egg. We will also make little eggs to take to UMFS. If you would like to donate some of these eggs they are 2 for \$5.00.

This is the only fund raiser that the circle does to make our money for outreach programs for the year.



Drive Through Prayer Ministry

Is on hold, due to winter weather, until the first Monday in April.

## God Has a Plan for You

*(Continued from page 1)*

So, on the first of July, we were blessed with the appointment of **Rev. Barbara Lewis**. Since Barbara was coming from a three point charge in Brunswick County, we figured she would be able to relax a bit with this mere two point charge of churches only 6 miles apart. Wrong!

Rev. Barbara's arrival was closely followed at the end of July by **Rev. Anita Mays**'s decision to immigrate to the foreign land of Texas, of all places, to continue her education pursuing a PhD. Then we experienced the departure of our After School director, **Lyndsey McCall**.

Thus we had two staff vacancies which we prayed that God would fill for us. First, God sent us **Porter Schermerhorn**, longtime member of the Greenwood church family. Porter joined **Amy Yeary** as co-director of the After School ministry. That vital Greenwood outreach program is now going strong with ten kids enrolled.

Then, God led **Rev. Denise Janssen** to us to fill the open position of Minister of Christian Education.

Lots of changes to the Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge. It's axiomatic that change is hard, different and sometimes scary. But we know that these changes are part of God's plan for us; part of His blessings for us and our church. So, when you reflect on changes that came your way in 2012, or may be on the horizon in 2013, remember Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Praise God for all his blessings on us — small, medium and large!





## Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Gay Stapleton .....	2/1
Teresa Coleman.....	2/1
Lorrie Bowie.....	2/7
Brenda Shuler.....	2/18
Riley Patteson.....	2/19
Jordan Stapleton.....	2/20
Alison Smith.....	2/22
Joseph Stanley .....	2/22
Harry Shuler.....	2/28

*Don't see your birthday or wedding anniversary in The Twig Bender and would like to have us publish it? Send your dates to admin@gumcva.org or call the church office at 804-266-5341; likewise, let us know if you'd like your birthday or anniversary **removed**.*

## FunRaisers Update – Fellowship Hall

Have you seen the Fellowship Hall lately? It's looking better all the time, thanks to our FunRaisers.

New curtains and venetians blinds have been installed. The FunRaisers thank Raymond Ritchie for helping out on that.

A bamboo screen has been placed in the back of the Fellowship Hall to hide items left on the floor.



If anyone has any suggestions on how we can improve the looks of this room, please call one of the FunRaisers: Charlotte at 266-0956 or Betty at 266-5747.

## 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 6	22	46	\$ 4,818
January 13	30	50	\$ 6,743
January 20	23	43	\$ 1,297
January 27	17	34	\$ 1,631
<b>January Totals</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>\$ 14,489</b>
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>\$ 3,622</b>

We need a weekly offering of at least \$2,643 to meet Greenwood's operating budget of \$137,433. Your generosity is appreciated

## February Communion Offering



### Heart Havens

A ministry of the Virginia Conference UMC

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

## The Twig Bender

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