



From the Pastor

The Need For Prayer

During several meetings recently, the discussion has turned to the need for prayer.

We have talked about Vacation Bible School and how to reach the children of the neighborhood. We have discussed the need for helping more people be involved in mission. We have shared concern

over members of the congregation and community who are ill or injured and not able to attend worship.

We have a variety of people and their respective needs on our prayer list. Some have discussed the need to pray over what their Sunday School class might next study. We have several children who spend each school day afternoon at our church. We have shared joy and anticipation as we have discussed making changes to our chancel area in the sanctuary.

OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Please pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ

Zack Carns, Jeremy Coleman, Ronald Dolan, Ashley Draper, Pat Moran, Virginia Moran, Pamela Mortenson, Maddie Newton, Lisa Patteson, Raymond Ritchie, Tommy Sheets, Lavelle Sheffield, Steve Sheffield, Kimberley Shuler, Teresa and Bobby Skloss, , Carolyn Smith's brother Donny Karston Marshall Smith (infant in ICU), Carolyn Stone, Johnny Taylor, Harold Yeary, Greenwood's After School Children

(Continued on page 12)

Minister of Christian Education

VBS 2013: Marketplace 29 A.D.

By Rev. Denise Janssen

Summer is just around the corner - and that means Vacation Bible School time is coming soon! This year, we will be hosting a Marketplace 29 A.D. Vacation Bible School on our lawn for children who are 4 years old through 6th grade.

The Marketplace will be set up on the lawn using canopy-style tents (we'd love to hear from you if you have one we can borrow). Each tent will contain one or two Bible-times market shops where children will learn about what life was like in Jesus' day. A storyteller will tell a Bible story each day and there will be music, dancing, and snacks in the Marketplace, too.

Finally, the morning will conclude as Jesus arrives in the Marketplace and a spontaneous dramatization takes place based on a Bible story from Jesus' life. We believe children will love the format - and it works well for busy grown-ups, too, who want to help but can't commit to teaching or to every morning all week long.

So, it's time to consider how you'd like to help! The first and most important thing you can do is to mark the dates, June 24-28, on your calendar. We will meet from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on Monday through Thursday mornings during this week. On Friday at 6:30 p.m., we will invite children and their families to join us for dinner and an opportunity to experience the Marketplace together.

Secondly, take a minute to mention VBS and the dates to those families in your lives with children so they can plan to attend. Flyers will



(Continued on page 13)

Welcome Susanna Carson

Susanna Carson has joined the Greenwood church family as our new music director.

A graduate of Randolph-Macon, she majored in Music, with minors in Religious Studies and French. Susannah began playing the organ at fourteen and says she “fell in love with playing for churches. I believe in using the gifts God gave me to worship Him through music.”



Susanna is currently working as an administrative assistant at the Virginia Baptist Missions Board. She says she is “... looking forward to working with the Greenwood choir!”

Spanish Students Need Host Families

Have a new and exciting experience this summer! Host a student from Spain (ages 13-17) in your home from July 2 — July 29.

Learn about Spain and the Spanish culture while he or she learns about living in an American family. During the week in the daytime the students participate in English classes and go on excursions in the afternoon.

Nights and weekends are for time with the host family. A wonderful experience for families with children of all ages! We can help with transportation or vacations.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Debbie Hardy at 909-3190 or debbiehardy2003@yahoo.com



Greenwood Women's Circles

Ruth

We want to thank ever one for buying the Circle's Easter Eggs. We made and sold 190 and we gave 35 to United Methodist Family Services (UMFS).

We made 12 goodie boxes to send to our college students who are away from home. We are making Kits for Conference and are helping with a picnic at UMFS on Broad St. in May

Our next meeting will be May 2 at the home of Agnes Dalton.

Willing Workers

We will resume our Drive Thru Prayer ministry on Monday morning, April 8 at 6 a.m.. Join us if you'd like to be a prayer warrior with us

Our next meeting will be May 2 at Glenda Stalnaker's house.



Be Prepared — Read the Scriptures

Here are the April lectionary readings you can review to prepare for upcoming worship services.

April 7	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31
April 14	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
April 21	Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
April 28	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

A Prayer for Greenwood



I give you thanks, O God, for this day, for my life and my health.

You have blessed me with much including the ability to care for myself and others.

You have called me by name and I have heard Your voice.

You have blessed me with my church family and the beautiful property that serves as a center from which we live out Your mission to make disciples in Your name.

Today I lift up in prayer this concern on my heart . . .

I pray for our church leaders, our volunteers, our pastors, our teachers, and those who challenge me.

I pray that I will share my faith through my words and actions this day.

I pray that I will be generous with my church, with my finances, my skills, and my time.

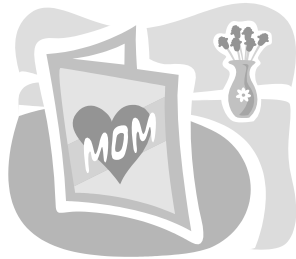
I pray I will be generous also when You call me to work with other ministries and in other ways of serving You.

Guide us, O Lord, in all that we do. Amen.

Altar Guild Wants Your Mom's Picture

By Gay Stapleton

I know this is a little early to be thinking about Mothers Day but I wanted to give every one a enough time to get pictures of their mothers together.



I would like to use pictures of our mothers for the altar and to adorn the sanctuary on Mother's Day (*Sunday, May 18*).

The pictures can of just your Mom or one with Mom and Dad, and at any age. When you get the pictures together you can leave them at the church office by Wednesday, May 8.

I think this will be great way to honor our mothers.

Hermitage Reaching Out to Seniors

The Hermitage is launching a new event to connect with senior citizens at area churches.

The event, **2nd Fridays at The Hermitage**, will feature a series of dinners for seniors to enjoy, plus entertainment and door prizes.

Reservations are required. The cost is \$10.00 per person; reservations for 6 or more are \$8.00 per person. Half of the ticket sales will be donated to the Samaritan Fund.

For reservations or questions, call Susan Cantrell at 474-1850.

The Hermitage is a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) for persons 62 years of age and older, Located at 1600 Westwood Ave. in Richmond, the Hermitage is a part of Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.



Practice Makes Perfect*

Practicing Our Faith Through Spiritual Disciplines

It's probably safe to say that most of us who call ourselves Christian seek to feel closer to the God we claim to follow and serve. Yet, for most of us, we flounder when it comes to the spiritual disciplines we believe draw us closer to God.

Perhaps we have a favorite spiritual discipline that works well for us, or maybe we haven't quite found one that fits us well – whatever the case, the study series this spring will offer a taste of a number of spiritual practices and some strategies to adapt them to serve us better as we seek to serve God.

Come experience and learn more about spiritual practices like: prayer walks, meditation, *lectio divina* and other forms of praying, using the scriptures, labyrinths, art and music as prayer, using creeds in prayer, service as prayer, and much more!

This study series, with shared leadership from Barbara and Denise, will be offered on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at Greenwood and Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at Laurel Park beginning Tuesday, April 30 and Thursday, May 2, respectively, continuing through mid-June.



**where perfect = complete or well-rounded, not flawless!*



Greenwood UMC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	1 6 a.m. Drive Thru Prayer 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	2	3 7 p.m. Women's Circle
7 LAMB's Basket Sunday	8 6 a.m. Drive Thru Prayer 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting	9	10 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner
14	15 6 a.m. Drive Thru Prayer 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	16 7 p.m. Education Team	17 11:30 a.m. Cornerstone 7 p.m. Church Council (Tentative)
21 Festival of God's Creation	22 6 a.m. Drive Thru Prayer 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	23	24
28	29 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 6 a.m. Drive Thru Prayer 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	30 7 p.m. Prayer Study	May 1



Friendship Quilters

"The Cotton Patch Gospel"

The "Greatest Story Ever Retold"

A musical drama adapted from *The Cotton Patch Version of Matthew and John* by Clarence Jordan.



Presented by the youth choir and musicians of Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church.

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.

Gum Spring UMC, 35 Church Lane, Gum Spring.

Admission is free with an offering to benefit Randolph-Macon College Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 21, 3:00 p.m.

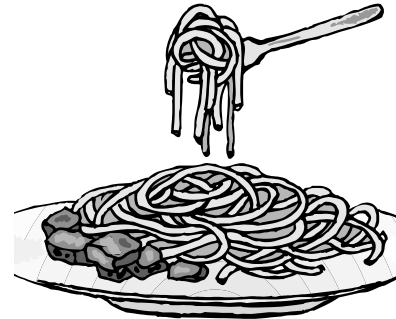
Duncan Memorial UMC, 201 Henry Street, Ashland, Virginia – on the campus of Randolph-Macon College.

Admission is \$5 and to benefit youth missions and retreats – children five and under are free

For more information on this musical masterpiece, see the flyer in the narthex or read about it at our website.

Eating Opportunities

Fellowship Dinner – Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. Baked spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread, brownie - ice cream – only \$5.00 per plate.



Program: Henrico County Police Community Officers will be on hand to talk about local crime and how not to be a victim. They will also provide an opportunity for you to ask questions.

In order for us to plan properly for the Fellowship Dinner, we must know ahead of time how much food to prepare. Therefore, please have your reservations in by Sunday April 7. We will regretfully be unable to take reservations after this date. Sign up on the insert in the church bulletin, call the church office at (804) 266-5341 or e-mail admin@gumcva.org.

FunRaiser's Bag Lunch – pick up after worship services on Sunday, April 28 Menu: Turkey sandwich, Fritos, pineapple pudding and a cookie . Sign up on the list in the church narthex, call the church office at (804) 266-5341 or e-mail admin@gumcva.org.

**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!**

The Need For Prayer

(Continued from page 1)

We have expressed concern over the decreases in attendance and financial contributions over the last two years. And in the last two finance meetings, we have shared concerned over the increased cost of heating oil and a longer, colder winter.

You can probably list many other things about which the congregation could be praying. In each meeting, in each case, the same refrain reigns: We need every member of our congregation praying for Greenwood Church, its members, its mission and God's plan for us.

Some have expressed the wish for a short prayer that could be posted on their refrigerator or a mirror or other service they look at frequently that they could pray every day. I have written a prayer that could be used in this way. This prayer is printed in the sidebar on page 5.

I pray that it will enrich your daily life and that it will help you to focus your prayer to strengthen our congregation as we work together to serve God in this community and beyond.

Grace and Peace,
Barbara



Marketplace 29 A.D.

(Continued from page 2)

be provided soon for you to hand deliver to those families.

The next thing you can do to help with VBS is to volunteer in some way. Volunteers of all abilities are needed for a variety of jobs. We need census takers to welcome children to VBS and help kids sign in. Shepherds will watch over them as they enjoy the marketplace booths, and help them know when it's time to go to the storyteller and the snack booths. "Guards" are needed to help children remember not to run out into the street.

And a variety of different kinds of booths are needed for the marketplace—snack makers and bread bakers, musicians and storytellers, people who work with wood and those who would enjoy helping the children make mud bricks, stone masons and weavers, basket makers and potters. Roaming characters—tax collector, beggar—wander about.

Additional costumes will also be needed, and a simple pattern that requires only cutting—no sewing—can be provided for those who can help before VBS but not during. A person will also help the children and their adult leaders get into their costumes when they arrive and return them before they leave. Finally, several people are needed for a drama that spontaneously takes place in the marketplace each night. There is a role for everyone! Volunteers can help out all four mornings or just two or three.

Please prayerfully consider your gifts and how God might be calling you to serve in this important ministry to our community's children. Pastor Denise or any member of the Education Team can give you more information or help you find a place to serve.





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

Joan & Kenny Sipe	4/8
Steve & Tara Morgan	4/9
Glenda & Steve Stalnaker	4/10
Charlene & Maurice Hawkins	4/10

*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**.*



April Communion Offering

Lakeside Rescue Squad

www.lakesiderescue.org



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 3	18	31	2,441
March 10	18	43	1,377
March 17	18	39	1,020
March 24	18	33	2,105
March 31	18	73	2,517
March Totals	72	228	10,063
Weekly Average	18	46	2,517
YTD Totals	248	598	30,285
YTD Averages	19	46	2,330

We need a weekly offering of at least \$2,678 to meet Greenwood's operating budget of \$139,240. Your generosity is appreciated.

The Twig Bender

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

10040 Greenwood Road — Glen Allen, VA 23060 — 804-266-5341

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.	Office email:	admin@gumcva.org
Worship	11 a.m.	Fax:	804-266-2019
Pastor	Rev. Barbara Lewis	<i>The Twig Bender</i> editor	Steve Stalnaker
434-594-6241	revbarbara@gumcva.org		webmaster@gumcva.org
Minister of Christian Ed.	Rev. Denise Janssen		
804-464-8913	revdlj@att.net		
Music Director	Ms. Susanna Carson	Visit our web site at	www.gumcva.org
After School Phone:	804-266-6668	© 2013 Greenwood UMC — all rights reserved	

Greenwood
United Methodist Church
 10040 Greenwood Road
 Glen Allen, VA 23060

Return Service Requested

Mark Your Calendars

- Wednesday, April 10 Fellowship Dinner
- Saturday, April 13 Laurel Park's Spring Fun Day and Yard Sale
- Sunday, April 28 FunRaisers Bag Lunch – pick up after services
- Monday, April 29 *Twig Bender* Deadline
- Thursday, May 2 National Day of Prayer
- Sunday, May 12 Mother's Day
- Sunday, June 16 Father's Day
- June 24 — 28 Vacation Bible School