

From the Pastor

It's Hard to Say "Good Bye"

*Greetings in the Name of
Jesus Christ*

Over the last 10 years that I have been under appointment at Greenwood UMC, I have tried to write an article each

month that would be both interesting and thought provoking. I hope that everyone has thought that I achieved one or the other at least most of the time, and with saying that, I struggle with this article the most.

OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Please pray for these brothers
and sisters in Christ*

Virginia Agee, Brian Beckley Jr., Evelyn Daniel, Ashley Draper, Roger Eckwright, Leola Frayser, Thomas Jackson, Jane Gray Kibler, Pat Moran, Virginia Moran, Pamela Mortenson, Alvin Patteson, Winston Pulley, Betty & Harvey Roach, Rita Robinson, Benjamin Shannon, Lavelle Sheffield, Steve Sheffield, Carolyn Stone, Gloria Slingerland, Charlie Sprouse, Johnny Taylor, Mary Walker, Kim Winfrey

Over the last few years, I have had to have a few surgeries for both my hip and back, and this has left me with results that I have not wanted. I continue to have pain in my right leg due to the hip replacement, and over the last 7 months I have had not only the discomfort of the back surgery, but pain and weakness in the left leg.

These symptoms make standing and walking very difficult and

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Farewell, Rev. Dean

By Steve Stalnaker

The most important story this month is, of course, Rev. Dean's astounding announcement that, after much prayer and consultation, he has decided to take disability leave effective February 1. Dean's last letter to his parishioners starts on page 1.

... on Dean's Departure

"Dean took over at Greenwood at a time when the church was a little unsettled," commented Greenwood Church Council Chair Charley Banks. "It didn't appear on the surface, but it turned out to be a difficult assignment. Greenwood had to get through and around a number of difficult obstacles to move forward to calmer waters. With Dean at the helm, the church now has a viable afterschool program and has continued to support its historically important outreach missions. God speed."

"I always appreciated Dean's encouraging me and others to

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Who will take Dean's place in the Greenwood pulpit is still being worked out. The Richmond District Superintendent (DS), Rev. Steve Jones and Bishop Charlene Kammerer of the Virginia Conference are responsible for providing an interim pastor to fill out the remainder of Dean's appointment, which runs through June 30.

The DS and the Bishop have several options available to them, some of which are proprietary, so it's not appropriate for us to discuss them in this newsletter. Besides, neither Dean nor our Greenwood Staff/Pastor Parish Relations (SPPR) committee is privy to all the options. We do expect some sort of interim solution in the very near future.

It has been my privilege to work with Rev. Dean over the last several years. I've enjoyed a

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Ministry of Christian Education

Lent is Not an Easy Journey

By Rev. Anita Mays

Lent is a journey. A journey that gives us the chance to reflect, repent, and walk with Jesus to the cross. This is not an easy journey, but requires sacrifice and commitment.



So why bother? Why choose to travel this long and painful journey? We do so because being Christian means to follow Christ, even to the cross. We do so because this time of reflection and repentance helps us to understand the significance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. And ultimately, we travel this journey because it does not end in the dark shadow of a cross, but in the hopeful light of resurrection.

As we travel this journey, let us do so together. Join us during this Lenten season for a Bible study focusing on the last words of Jesus. The study will be held at Laurel Park UMC at 5:00 p.m. on five consecutive Sundays, from February 26 - March 25. Mark your calendars and plan to join us as we walk with Christ together.

February Mission Focus



**Boy Scouts
of America**

Greenwood Sponsors

Scout Troup 751

And Cub Scout Pack 744

February 12 is Scout Sunday



Greenwood Men's Group

February Mission Focus: Boy Scouts

By Charley Banks

The Boy Scouts of America acknowledge their founding by designating the first Sunday in February as Boy Scout Sunday and the First Saturday as Boy Scout Sabbath. At Greenwood, as with many other troops sponsored by a church, Troop 751 recognizes the second Sunday in February as Boy Scout Sunday, which is February 12 in 2012.



Methodist men's groups have a strong tradition of supporting the Boy Scout Troop that is chartered to their church. Greenwood's Men's Group encourages everyone in Greenwood and Laurel Park to pray for Troop 751, its program, its members, and its leaders. Troop 751 meets on Monday evenings at Greenwood. Please consider dropping by and assisting in some way. Contact Cindy Joe Daniel for particular needs. The Men's Group will continue with some further repairs to the Scout building.

The Men's Group will meet at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 4 in Greenwood's Fellowship Hall to have a breakfast, fellowship, and discuss the upcoming activities. All the men of the church are invited. You are welcome to bring a friend; just let us know a few days before so that we will have enough food. While Roger is recuperating, give Charley Banks a call at 755-7468.

After School Ministry

We are Growing!

By Lyndsey McCall

We are growing! Greenwood's After School ministry is growing by leaps and bounds!

Last year, around this time the After School had enrolled between 10 and 12 kids but this year, we are now up to 16! We pick up at Glen Allen Elementary, Greenwood, Longdale and Brooklyn Middle School. It is such a great mission of the church to have opened its doors and provide this ministry to the neighborhood families.

A word of thanks must go to the Greenwood circles of the church. The children had a wonderful last day before Christmas break, especially after receiving your Christmas gifts. Thank you! You made their day extra special. I'm also grateful for the recent \$200 that was donated from the women. We desperately needed new games, pencils, markers, ...etc.

As you notice our exciting new growth, we would like to reiterate our desperate need for volunteers.

While we have now covered the issue concerning transportation and making sure that no adult is left with any child by themselves, we now need extra eyes and ears at the After School. We need your help!

I know that you may feel limited in your abilities but we need people to be present and help the program stay organized. It's not demanding work, but it

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What's Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).



Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline in memory of Jesus' experience in the wilderness of temptation (See Matthew 4:1-11)

Traditionally, at the Ash Wednesday worship service, the penitents' foreheads are marked with ashes in the form of a cross. In the Bible, a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership. The cross on the forehead is symbolic of the spiritual mark or seal that is put on a Christian in baptism, when he is delivered from slavery to sin and the devil and made a servant of righteousness and Christ (see Romans 6:3-18). Thus this cross symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ.

The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent, however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Matthew 11:21.

Rockin' Wednesdays

Starting February 15, a new outreach program for children age 5 through middle school: **Rockin' Wednesdays!** We'll have a free dinner, songs, crafts and Bible stories.

Volunteer to have fun helping teach or with the food. Every Wednesday, 5:30 — 7 p.m. in the Education Building. To volunteer contact Adamayre Patteson at 804-266-6364 or Anita Mays at 804-536-8350.

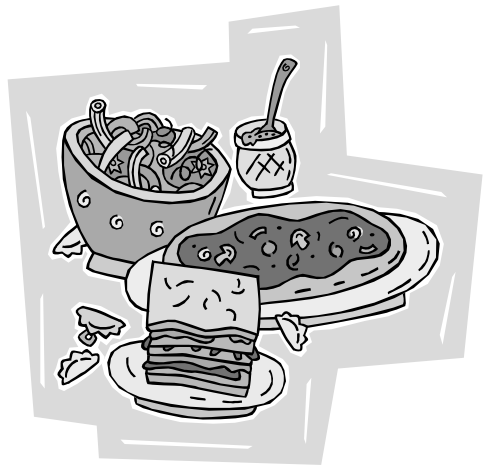
Be there or be square!

Greenwood Circles

Willing Workers

The Willing Workers had their "Christmas Social" at the Olive Garden. We had great fellowship and the food was good, too. No business was conducted.

Our regular meeting will be held at Glenda Stalnaker's home at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1. We will be making plans for 2012. We would love to have you join us.



Ruth

The Ruth Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, January 31 at the home of Dorothy Sties. We are continuing with our study on David. Anyone interested in coming give Adamarye a call at 266-6364.

We made a donation to the Afterschool program to help Lyndsey and Amy buy supplies. We also made a donation to the church to help with cost of wiring the projector in the Sanctuary. We will continue sending out goody boxes to our college students. In November we mailed out 10 boxes. We remembered our shut ins at Christmas with a visit and a small gift.

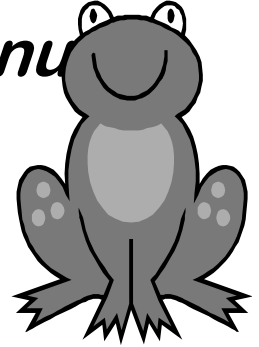


We will be making Easter eggs again this year to help with our outreach programs.

From the Pastor ... Continued

(Continued from page 1)

have weighed heavily on my heart. I have been in conversation with God, Janet and the DS as to what direction my life is headed. After much discussion I will be taking disability leave the first of February 2012.



I have enjoyed most of my time here at Greenwood and I am very proud of the many things that the church has accomplished while I have been your pastor. I know that God has more for me in my life and I am excited to see how He will continue to use me in His service.

I have grown to love this church and the people in it and I am very sad that I will be leaving, not having seen some of the ministries come to fruition. I know in my heart that I have given everything I could to God here at Greenwood and I pray that you will continue to seek God in all that you do. Each and every one of us has a responsibility to help build not just the church but also the kingdom of God.

I leave you with these words to continue to live by: *happy moments, praise God, difficult moments, seek God, quiet moments, worship God, painful moments, trust God*, and the most important: *every moment, thank God.*

Shalom,

Dean



HELP WANTED!

Greenwood After School Ministry
Monday-Friday — 1:30-5:30pm
Call Adamarye if you're able to volunteer.

Greenwood UMC Budget 2012*

Series	Category	Target
100	<i>Nurture Ministries</i>	1,850
200	<i>Outreach Ministry</i>	200
400	<i>Trustees / Buildings and Grounds</i>	36,600
500	<i>Stewardship / Finance</i>	500
600	<i>Staff Support & Salaries</i>	75,117
700	<i>Office Expense</i>	1,300
800	<i>Conference & District Benevolences</i>	22,875
900	<i>Leadership & Development</i>	500
	Grand Total	\$138,942

* We need \$2,297 each week to meet budget. Space prevents us from printing the nearly 90 line items of the detailed budget. The entire budget is available in the church office for your review.

February Communion Offering Heart Havens

Heart Havens is a ministry of the United Methodist Church that provides for the residential needs of persons with disabilities through the development and management of homes which exemplify the love of Christ. Heart Havens, Inc. was created at the Virginia Annual Conference in 1996 and opened its first home in January 1999.

Spread across Virginia, all of the Heart Havens homes are funded

with monies raised by The United Methodist Men, with support from the United Methodist Women, Youth and members of United Methodist congregations.



Eating Opportunities

FunRaiser's Bag Lunch – after worship services on Sunday, February 26. Chili, corn bread, fruit cup and Toll House cookies. Only \$7 per lunch. Sign up in the church narthex, call the church office at (804) 266-5341 or e-mail admin@gumcva.org.



Fellowship Dinner – Wednesday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Menu: Chicken Pot Pie, tossed salad, dinner rolls and brownie cup sundae. \$5 per plate.



Entertainment: "The Finneys" — John & Frankie Gospel singers

Sign up on the insert in the church bulletin, call the church office at (804) 266-5341 or e-mail admin@gumcva.org.

After School Ministry Grows

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would help tremendously just to have an additional person present. The children usually come in, do their homework, read or color until everyone is finished and we have a snack. After the snack we do a little free play with board games or go outside and finally we will do our theme activity.



Any person could help volunteer with our kids and we would love for them to start seeing the folks that support them.

Farewell, Rev. Dean

(Continued from page 2)

stimulating “official” relationship with Dean as well as a personal one; Dean is my friend and that’s something I value. As a member of Greenwood, I hate to see Dean go. As Dean’s friend, I’m glad he’ll be able to have some relief from the pain that’s been plaguing him for a long time now.

As Dean says, God isn’t done with him yet, so there are bright things in the future for both Dean and Janet. Keep in mind 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.’”

Remember that Dean and Janet aren’t really going away. They’ll still be here in the Glen Allen/Richmond area. Keep in touch with them – Glenda and I will.

To Dean and Janet, *The Twig Bender* says: “*Vaya con Dios!*”

Scrapbooking Fun

What are you going to do with all of the great pictures you took over the holidays and on family vacations? How about **scrapbooking**?

Come join us on the third Tuesday of the month (February 21 this month) at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room to find out how to get started. It will be loads of fun and fellowship - and it doesn’t matter if you have never scrapbooked or are a scrap-booking expert. If you would like to join us call Gay Stapleton (672-8404) or Janet Pittman (262-1628) or just show up. Oh, yeah, men are welcome, too!





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

Comments on Dean's Departure

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try things out of our comfort zone as he sought to help us grow in our faith,” said Greenwood Lay Leader Lewis Daniel. “Having come to the ministry after other careers, he was effective in witnessing to those who may never have been in a Methodist Church before. I know he worked hard at every aspect of ministerial life and did many things behind the scenes to help our church and our community. We will miss his servant leadership.”

Dorothy Powell said, “Sincere thanks and heartfelt wishes to Dean and Janet. You have made a difference in the life of Greenwood. My family and I appreciated your always being there for us. You’ll always be in our thoughts and prayers.”



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 1	15	46	2,534
January 8	26	45	4,071
January 15	29	54	1,468
January 22	24	46	3,832
January 29	<i>Data Not Available at Press Time</i>		
<i>January Totals</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>11,905</i>
<i>Weekly Averages</i>	<i>23.5</i>	<i>47.8</i>	<i>2,976</i>

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



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

The Twig Bender

is a publication of Greenwood United Methodist Church

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

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