



July 2022

The Twig Bender



Pray For



Our Nation
 Those Affected by Covid
 GUMC/LPUMC Families
 GLC
 George Burge
 Jeremy Coleman
 Lewis Daniel
 Roger Eckwright
 Bobby and Cathy Ellis
 Nancy Lloyd
 Lacye Ryan
 DaJuan Rushing
 Dean Pittman
 Patty Prout
 David and Carroll Shafer
 Michelle Skloss
 Ray and Carolyn Smith
 Glenda Stalnaker

3 Great Years

By Steve Stalnaker

It's true: **time really does fly** when you're having fun. Mostly.

On the last Sunday of last month, June 26, the people of the Greenwood and Laurel Park Charge observed the **three-year anniversary of Pastor Josette's leadership** of this Charge. Has it really been three years?



Look at what's happened in those three years: a contentious election that's still causing arguments; racial unrest; a world-wide pandemic caused by a virus of dubious origin. And much more – like Oklahoma University's women's softball team winning its second national championship in as many years – but I digress.

In her three years here, **Pastor Josette herself has accomplished much and has led this charge** in achieving many things. We've continued to grow spiritually and have worked hard towards our vision: *Loving, Growing and Serving*.

Loving: we continue to express Christ's love for each other and for our neighbors. Additionally, Pastor Josette and the disciples in our congregations make frequent calls, visits and send cards to our shut-ins and those on

(Continued on page 5)

In This Issue

- [From the Pastor](#)..... 2
- [Stewardship](#)..... 3
- [Food Connection](#) 6
- [Scriptures](#)..... 6
- [Lawn Mowing](#) 7
- [Vital Statistics](#) 9
- [Calendar](#) 10
- [Upcoming Dates](#) 11

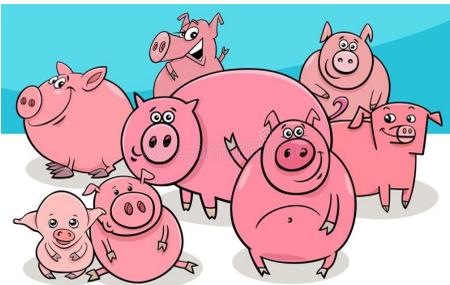
From the Pastor

Hey, Legion: Beat It!

“Whatever their bodies do affects their souls. It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out ...”

I used this quote from C.S. Lewis' book, *The Screwtape Letters*, to begin my sermon last month. I was preaching from Luke 8:26-39 where Jesus commanded the demon to come out of the Gerasene man. The name of the demon was Legion, meaning “we are many.” Because this man was possessed by thousands of evil spirits, he had gone about for a long time not wearing clothes. And he did not live in a house but in the tombs, the place where dead people were buried. Known to have regular violent seizures, he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break free and be driven by the demon into the desert.

C.S. Lewis wrote *The Screwtape Letters* in defense of the Christian faith. This popular satire consists of a series of 31 fictional letters in which *Screwtape*, an experienced devil, instructs his young charge, *Wormwood*, on effective strategies for tempting the human being assigned to him and making sure that human continues on a steady path toward damnation.



Although from a fictional satire, this quote describes what was happening to the Gerasene man in Luke 8. Evil had overtaken his mind and not only controlled his body, but his soul. The demon kept everything good from touching or reaching

(Continued on page 4)

**Greenwood's July
Communion Offering:
Sheltering Arms**



GUMC Stewardship

“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.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 NIV

Greenwood is grateful for the continued generous giving by disciples and friends. Stewardship is a personal, spiritual discipline that goes beyond necessary financial support. When everyone prays for the Holy Spirit's guidance in practicing this discipline, the needs of the church are met.



Each of us should prayerfully consider what to give, not only financially, but our time and talent as well – fully using our gifts from the Holy Spirit in support of the body of Christ. Pray also in thankfulness to God that He meets our personal needs, while enabling us to support His Church.

Greenwood Stewardship June 2022		
Date	Present	Giving
June 5	23	\$2,191
June 12	27	\$938
June 19	30	\$1,572
June 26	29	\$1,297
Averages	27.25	\$1,500

Regardless of what's going on around us, Greenwood's financial needs must be met. Each week we need \$2,489 to support Greenwood's missions and operating expenses. Last month, we averaged \$1,500 each week, or 58 percent of our budget.

At the request of the Greenwood Finance Committee, we're publishing each week's giving numbers so readers can get a sense of how we're doing financially. The matrix at left shows those numbers.

Willis Sheffield 100th Birthday

Willis said: "A huge thank you to everyone for the cards" in celebration of his 100th birthday. He added: "I really appreciated it." Fifteen cards were delivered. Thanks to Betty Ritchie for organizing this effort.



Intentional Soul Care

(Continued from page 2)

this man. He was living in darkness where there was no light. He was lost, and without hope or relief or saving. Had Jesus not commanded the demon to come out, this possessed man would have lived the remainder of his life tormented, not in his right mind, suffering, without dignity or a life.

In a world that is going crazy mad, **we must be intentional about soul care**. What are the places and spaces inside us that need tending to? How is our soul? Maybe we are not experiencing a blatant attack like the Gerasene man, but it is the subtle things, the things we are not intentional about, that leave room for disruptions, distractions and destruction to creep in.

What is your offensive strategy? Are you using your weapons: the *Word of God* (Ephesians 6:17), *Prayer* (Ephesians 6:18), *Worship* (Chronicles 20:22-23), the *name of Jesus* (Philippians 2:9-11), *Fasting* (Isaiah 58:6)?

The apostle Paul writes, in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5,

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

The power of Christ’s resurrection has given us authority over what we do with our bodies and how we proactively care for our minds using these weapons of spiritual warfare. So, what’s your next move?

Peace and blessing to all,

— *Pastor Josette Franklin*



Pastor Josette's 3 Years

(Continued from page 1)

our prayer list.

Growing: we continue to grow spiritually through corporate prayer as we intercede on behalf of others on our Tuesday Prayer Call, and through receiving preaching, participating in Bible study, Sunday School, conference seminars, courses and more.

Serving: We keep on serving through our spirit-led outreach programs. **Greenwood's Food Donation Connection** continues to collect food donations each week from restaurants for the Friday Free Food Distribution – and it's become a charge-wide mission as Laurel Park folks have stepped up to help. Laurel Park continues to coordinate both churches' monthly contributions to the **LAMB's Basket**.

Despite the passing of its founder and having to relocate, **Laurel Park's Aggie's Attic** carries on this vital outreach mission. The **Greenwood Learning Center (GLC)** served three children in the Afterschool program this year helped by volunteers from across the church family.

Small groups like Greenwood's **Willing Workers and Ruth Circles**, the **Laurel Park United Women in Faith**, and Greenwood's **Men's Breakfast** group sustain outreach activities that serve those in our communities.

We are still **supporting Longdale Elementary School** with two annual school supplies drives – an effort that the students and teachers of Longdale reciprocated by collecting and donating over 120 pounds of food last month to the Friday Free Food Distribution pantry.

The **Fall Fair and Brunswick Stew Sale** along with our **Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt** keeps on serving our community. Most recently, Pastor Josette has led the **"Pray and Go"** community outreach wherein we walk the local neighborhoods and pray for our neighbors, leaving a door hanger letting them know we care.

In writing this article, I **ran out of synonyms for "continue"** as I try to catalog all the



(Continued on page 8)

Food Donation Connection

July Pick Up Rotation



Wednesday, June 29: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, June 30: Susan Johnston; Friday, July 1: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, July 6: Charley Banks; Thursday, July 7: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, July 8: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, July 13: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, July 14: Susan Johnston; Friday, July 15: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, July 20: Charley Banks; Thursday, July 21: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, July 22: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, July 27: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, July 28: Susan Johnston; Friday, July 29: Josette Franklin.

Communion Elements

Pre-packaged, already-consecrated Communion elements are available for those not planning to attend in-person Communion services. Pick up elements Wednesday through Friday at the Greenwood church office, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the last week of each month for the next month's Communion.



JULY SCRIPTURES

July 3	2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20.
July 10	Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37.
July 17	Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42.
July 24	Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13.
July 31	Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21.



Prayer Request Email



For prayer requests only: greenwoodprays@gmail.com
Monitored daily by Pastor Josette; all emails in strict confidence.

Greenwood's Women's Circles

The Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday July 19 at 1 p.m. to go to lunch.

The Willing Workers are taking the summer off; we'll resume meetings in September.



United Women in Faith

The Laurel Park United Women in Faith (formerly the United Methodist Women) will meet at LPUMC on Sunday, Aug. 14 at 3 p.m. All women are welcome. Read more about the United Women in Faith at <https://uwfaith.org>.



July Grass Cutting Detail

Your Trustees have established a volunteer rotation for cutting the grass on the church grounds. This month's schedule is:

- Week of June 27Bob Stapleton
- Week of July 4..... Harry Shuler
- Week of July 6..... Lewis Daniel
- Week of July 13.....Bob Stapleton
- Week of July 20..... Harry Shuler



If you'd like to help with this summer's grass cutting, please call Bob Stapleton at 804-672-8408. **Thank you from your Trustees.**

It's Been a Great 3 Years

(Continued from page 5)

ways we **continue** reaching out and serving our community.

Despite Covid, despite political rancor, despite inflation and economic turmoil, **Greenwood and Laurel Park are still here**, thanks in no small part to Pastor Josette's commitment to Christ's great commission – and the mission of the United Methodist Church:

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (*Matthew 28:19–20 NRSVU*)

Somewhere I read that achieving **the Great Commission is enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit** and, with Pastor Josette in the leadership of this Charge, we're working on that. Could we do better? Of course. As poet Robert Browning wrote: "... a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?"

One way we can do better is attending church in person – despite new mask requirements – so we can fellowship with other Disciples at Greenwood and Laurel Park, under Pastor Josette's Spirit-filled leadership. That leadership is effective because she knows — and she preaches — that it's all about Jesus, not about her or you or me.

See you in church.



Sunday Worship

Every Sunday at 11 a.m. at Greenwood
And on Zoom (click [here](#)) or dial 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 829 5710 1589; password: 929829

Also on Facebook Live

Tuesday Prayer Call

Every Tuesday, 8 to 8:15 a.m. on Zoom (click [here](#)) or dial 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 851 1374 4202; password: 452446





Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Isaiah Robinson.....	7/3	Raymond Ritchie.....	7/24
Dorothy Powell.....	7/7	Lauren Coleman.....	7/28
Kristen Bray.....	7/15	Sue Anne Blanton.....	7/29
Lucas Langston.....	7/18		

Anniversaries

Janice & Charley Banks.....	7/12
Bob & Gay Stapleton.....	7/12



*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**.*



Twig Bender

is a publication of Greenwood United Methodist Church

Office Phone: 804-266-5341

Office email: admin@gumcva.org

10040 Greenwood Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

In-Person and Virtual Worship: 11 a.m. Sunday



Pastor: Pastor Josette L. Franklin
 Phone: 804-238-9318
 Email: josettefranklin@vaumc.org
 Office hours: 9 a.m. — 1 p.m. Tuesday — Friday
 Fax: 804-266-2019
 Education Building Phone: 804-266-6668

Lay Leader: Lewis Daniel
 Acting Music Director: Jackie Schultz
 Twig Bender editor: Steve Stalnaker
 Web site: www.gumcva.org

© 2022 Greenwood UMC — all rights reserved



Greenwood United Methodist Church

July 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>JULY IS NATIONAL CELL PHONE COURTESY MONTH</p>					1 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	2 No Men's Breakfast World UFO Day 
3 Communion Sunday 11 a.m. Worship 	4 Independence Day 	5 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	6 International Kissing Day 	7 Nat'l Strawberry Sundae Day 	8 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	9 Nat'l Sugar Cookie Day 
10 11 a.m. Worship 	11 Nat'l Blueberry Muffins Day 	12 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	13 Nat'l French Fries Day 	14  Bastille Day 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers 	15 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	16 World Snake Day 
Friendship Quilters						
17 11 a.m. Worship 	18 Women's Dive Day 	19 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1 p.m. Ruth Circle Meets 	20 Apollo 11 Lands on Moon 1969 	21 Nat'l Junk Food Day 	22 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	23 Nat'l Day of the Cowboy 
24 11 a.m. Wor- 31 11 a.m. Worship	25 Aunt and Uncle Day 	26 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	27 Bugs Bunny Debuts 1940 	28 Nat'l Milk Chocolate Day 	29 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	30 Father-in-Law Day 

Mark Your Calendars

- Aug. 14 United Women in Faith Meet
- Sep. 1 GLC Open House
- Sep. 5 Labor Day
- Sep. 11 Patriot Day
- Oct. 5 Yom Kippur
- Oct. 10 Columbus Day
- Oct. 29 Special Annual Conference
- Oct. 31 Halloween
- Nov. 6 Daylight Saving time Ends
- Nov. 11 Veteran’s Day



Greenwood UMC Mission

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. — Matt. 28:19

Greenwood Vision

Loving

Learning to love and connect with God and People »

Growing

Acquiring tools for being transformed into the image of Christ »

Serving

Participating in church ministry and community outreach

