



Pray For



Our Nation
GUMC/LPUMC
Families

Joel Attanasio
Jeremy Coleman
Roger Eckwright
Linda Franklin
Lacye Ryan
Patty Prout,
David and Carroll Shafer
Carolyn Smith,
Steve Stalnakar
Catherine Wallace
Beth Womack

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The Dean and I

By Steve Stalnakar

Dean Pittman was a friend of mine. Gregory Dean Pittman, former Greenwood UMC pastor, was called home by God on August 16. I miss Dean.

Dean's passing wasn't a great surprise – it just came sooner than we expected it. He had been suffering from respiratory and coronary issues for some time and had entered hospice because there was nothing else medical science could do for him except make him comfortable. For that reason, I am relieved that Dean has passed on to the Lord – it means Dean is now at peace and no longer in pain.



I've written before that finding a new home church is the hardest task when moving. When Glenda and I arrived in Richmond in 2004, we began a search for a new home church which eventually resulted in our joining Greenwood in 2005. Dean was a major factor in our decision to join this particular church.

Upon joining, Dean and I soon became buddies, sharing a mutual respect for each other's integrity, experience and devotion to our faith. When Dean asked me to

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From the Pastor

God Has a Plan

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. –Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)

When everything going on around you is chaotic and traumatic it seems wrong to celebrate and be happy. Disease, suffering, loss of life, war, violence, hate, hunger, poverty, and injustice is all around. To keep moving forward is daunting and difficult and scary. But as disciples of Christ, children of God, we have weapons that are not carnal but mighty for the pulling down of strongholds.

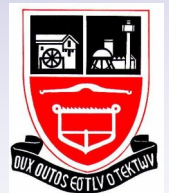
The prophet Jeremiah sent a letter from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom king Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. The letter was a message from the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel. God's message was that they "build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce, marry, have children, and seek the welfare of the city where they had been exiled, praying to God on its behalf, because in the well-being of the city they would find their well-being. God instructed them to pray and not listen to the false prophets and magicians' words and claims. God knew it would be a while before he brought them back to Jerusalem—seventy years. But God had a plan. God's plan was not intended to hurt them but bless them. And God did not want them to stop living and enjoying life, even in exile.



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*Greenwood's September
Communion Offering:*

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES



Greenwood Learning Center

Be sure and keep our after school ministry – the Greenwood Learning Center (GLC) – in your prayers. Trish Hayes will be the lead teacher and Dorothy Powell will be helping her.

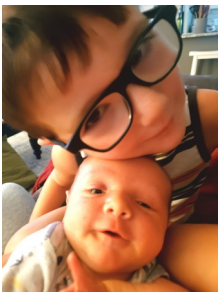
At press time we had five students enrolled which means we have room for more. Help spread the word among your relations, neighbors and friends about the GLC – the best value in after school care in Glen Allen.

Not only are we hosting these children after their school day, but we're open at 6 a.m. every school day for those who need some "before-school" care. We'll drive your child to school and pick them up afterwards.



Greenwood Church Family Notes

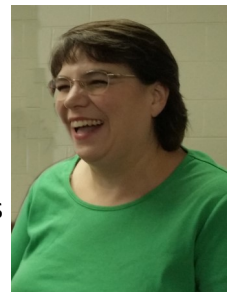
New Church Family member



Congratulations to Lauren and Matt Loving on the birth of their son Sawyer Craig on July 30. Sawyer has a big brother Finnley. His grand parents are Teresa and Darrell Coleman and great grand parents are Adamarye and Riley Patteson. At left: Sawyer and Finnley.

Barbara Lewis

Former Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge pastor the Rev. Barbara Lewis writes: "... thank you for the prayers, cards, and support following my mother's death." Pastor Barbara has a new church — Fletchers Chapel UMC — and a new address: 8341 Fletchers Chapel Rd, King George, VA 22485-6701.



Aggie's Attic Carries On

By Libby Stout

The Attic moved from Hungary Road on April 1, 2021 with the demolition of the Laurel Park Shopping Center. This was a difficult time for the Attic to go from two buildings into a much smaller building in the Hub on Lakeside Avenue.



We created a Facebook Marketplace account to show pictures of furniture for sale as we do not have extra space at the Attic. We decided to try it for one year and see what happens. To everyone's delight, the Attic has been thriving each and every month.

The Attic had to deal with the passing of Bob Carter in March of 2021. He and Robyn Puryear faithfully worked with such dedication each week to prepare the Backpack bags for over 30 children at three schools for the volunteers to deliver. Agnes Dalton's passing on October 16, 2021 was difficult for all of us. As everyone knows, she had the vision for Aggie's Attic and worked diligently to make it happen. Thankfully, Susan Johnston took over supervising the Attic, along with Aggie's Attic board members and volunteers who continue to give of themselves and their time, so Aggie's Attic could continue as she would have wanted.

The Backpack Program has changed considerably over the past year. With our lack of space at Laurel Park UMC and fewer volunteers to pack the bags for the schools, Susan Puryear Forthuber at Glen Allen Baptist Church suggested that they make it a pro-

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Greenwood's Women's Circles

The Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, Sep. 6 at 1 p.m. in the home of Ann Via. We will continue our Bible study and make plans for the new year.

The Willing Workers Circle will meet at the Church on Thursday Sep. 1 at 5:30 p.m. We will work on visitor welcome bags.

Be Smart About Propane Tank Disposal

By Julie Buchanan of Central Virginia Waste Management Authority

In the final weeks of summer, grill masters and outdoor enthusiasts across Central Virginia will be faced with an eternal question of the season: “What do I do with this empty propane tank?” HINT: It does NOT belong in household recycling or trash. It’s important to keep propane tanks out of household recycling and trash.



A CVWMA recycling facility recently reported that a 20-pound propane tank had been left in one of their drop-off recycling containers. This presented a serious safety hazard for anyone who was near the site. Propane is highly flammable, and any gas left inside a tank could cause a fire or explosion.

Never throw propane tanks in your household trash or recycling. Don’t do it, even if you know they’re empty (others do not).

Be smart about propane:

- Reuse tanks whenever possible. Propane exchanges are available at many places propane is sold.
- Check with retailers to see if they take back empty tanks.
- When it is time for disposal, many CVWMA localities accept empty tanks at convenience centers. Use the [Recycling Wizard](#) to find options for disposal in your locality.
- Always ask recycling convenience center staff where to place empty tanks.

Fortunately, no one was injured by the 20-pounder left in the drop-off. Let’s keep it that way by keeping propane tanks out of trash and recycling!



Prayer Request Email



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

Go Paperless

If you're receiving a paper copy of *The Twig Bender* through the snail mail (a.k.a. U.S. Postal Service), consider going paperless. Save Greenwood the cost of postage, paper, toner, labels, stickers and labor involved in printing, folding, stamping and mailing out paper copies of our newsletter.

Remember, *The Twig Bender* is always available online at Greenwood's web site at <https://www.gumcva.org/twig-bender-archives>. There you'll also find newsletter archives going back through the beginning of 2019 (and we'll be adding more archives as the webmaster gets the time).

We realize, however, that many of us (including your editor) prefer a "hard copy" to hold in our hands while we read. That's OK, and we'll continue to publish paper copies of *The Twig Bender*.

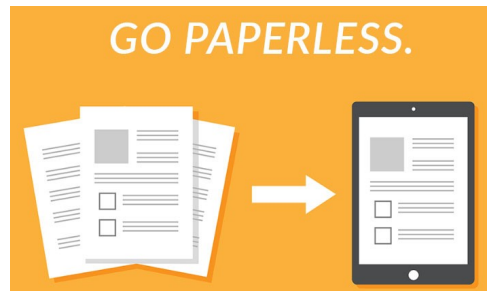
To go paperless, email the church office at admin@gumcva.org, call the office at 804-266-5341 or just tell your newsletter editor.











Likewise, if you no longer want to receive the monthly *Twig Bender* in any form – paper or by email – please let us know.

But, don't select a paperless *Twig Bender* if you think paperless saves the environment. It doesn't necessarily. Think about it:

- Paper is a biodegradable, renewable, sustainable product made from trees.
- Growing and harvesting trees provides jobs for millions of Americans.
- Forests are good for the environment and provide clean air and water, wildlife habitat and carbon storage.
- Thanks to improved forest management, we have more trees in America today than we had 100 years ago, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

It's your choice: paper or plastic ... er ... electronic. Let us know, please.



HEAT EXHAUSTION	OR	HEAT STROKE
Faint or dizzy  Excessive sweating 	Throbbing headache  No sweating	
 Cool, pale, clammy skin Nausea or vomiting  Rapid, weak pulse  Muscle cramps 	Body temperature above 103°  Red, hot, dry skin Nausea or vomiting Rapid, strong pulse  May lose consciousness 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get to a cooler, air conditioned place • Drink water if fully conscious • Take a cool shower or use cold compresses 	<h1>CALL 9-1-1</h1> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives 	

Food Donation Connection

September Pick Up Rotation

A big thank you to Trish and Nicholas Hayes for distributing food on Friday nights.

Wednesday, August 31: Charley Banks; Thursday, Sep. 1: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Sep. 2: Glenda Stalnaker.

Wednesday, Sep. 7: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Sep. 8: Susan Johnston; Friday, Sep. 9: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Sep. 14: Charley Banks; Thursday, Sep. 15: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Sep. 16: Glenda Stalnaker.

Wednesday, Sep. 21: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Sep. 22: Susan Johnston; Friday, Sep. 23: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Sep. 28: Charley Banks; Thursday, Sep. 29: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Sep. 30: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.



September 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 Aug. 29 Bob Stapleton
- Week of Sep. 5 Harry Shuler
- Week of Sep. 12 Lewis Daniel
- Week of Sep. 19 Bob Stapleton
- Week of Sep. 26 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.**

God Has a Plan

(Continued from page 2)

God does not want us to stop living and enjoying the abundant life of Christ even during these chaotic, traumatic, and uncertain times. God is good all the time. And all the time God is good. We are called to pray continually and put our faith in God. We are called together to the continual worship of God through Christ. What we bind on earth is bound in heaven. We must believe the promises of God in Scripture. And we must not be afraid because God continues to be with us.

We are being blessed beyond measure even in the midst of bereavement, health challenges and financial difficulties. God hears and answers our prayers. And we experience the grace of God every day. The Greenwood and Laurel Park family has experienced the birth of grandchildren, celebrated birthdays, and anniversaries, recovered from surgeries, experiencing improved health and rehabilitation, and the love of family and friends. God has kept us despite a pandemic and loss of members of our churches. Greenwood was blessed by a local business who repaired and repainted our parking lot at no cost to us. And both Greenwood and Laurel Park have been blessed with volunteers and friends who give sacrificially to the ministries of our churches. We will not lose hope. We will keep moving forward trusting God. We are called. We have purpose. And God is working all things together for good.

Peace and blessings to all,

— *Pastor Josette Franklin*



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™



The Dean and I

(Continued from page 1)

chair the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) – the church’s HR department – I made it clear that I wouldn’t be a “yes” man, I told him I would pull no punches, that I would keep my own counsel and carry out the duties of SPPRC chair in accordance with the *UMC Book of Discipline* and common sense. Dean said he wouldn’t have it any other way.

In that relationship – Pastor to SPPRC chair – Dean and I didn’t always agree but respected each other’s opinions. When I gave Dean feedback on his performance as Greenwood’s pastor, he thanked me, took it to heart and worked it into his operations.



Dean and I went to the shooting range together, went to basketball and softball games together, and just hung out. It was a mutually beneficial relationship. For the past several years, Glenda and I enjoyed a monthly dinner out with Dean and Janet – something all four of us eagerly anticipated each month.

I will miss Dean, but I’m glad he is home with God. I pray God’s blessings and comfort on Janet, on Dean’s niece Kim and the others who mourn his passing.

Vaya con Dios, Dean, it was my privilege to be a small part of your life.

Fully
Rely
On
God



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.



Aggie's Attic Carries On

(Continued from page 4)

ject there for that church's youth. Cheryl Ender is in charge and shops for all the food items needed. Their volunteers pack the bags and take them to the schools. It has been a blessing to both Glen Allen Baptist Church and Aggie's Attic. There are now 49 students at six elementary schools benefitting from this mission of the Attic.

The Scholarship Program for students at ACE Technical Center (previously Hermitage Technical Center) continues to grow each year. Students selected by ACE this year received scholarships from the Attic's donation of \$8,000.

Aggie's Attic is able to provide for so many organizations and people in the community needing help. The Backpack Program, Scholarships Fund, and donations have continued. We are thankful for all those involved with the mission of Aggie's Attic and have been so blessed for its success.

Due to the Labor Day Weekend, there will be no Men's Breakfast this month.



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



GUMC Stewardship

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also – Matthew 6:21

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.

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 \$2,350 each week, or 94 percent of our budget.



Tithes and offerings



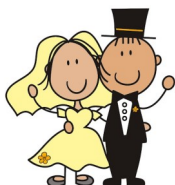
SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURES

Sep. 4	Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 11:-21; Luke 14:25-33.
Sep. 11	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.
Sep 18	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13.
Sep. 25	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31.

Greenwood Church Family Birthdays



Lewis Daniel	9/2	Maurice Hawkins	9/11
Isaac Langston.....	9/2	Catherine Wallace	9/18
Leo Bray	9/3	William Gibbs.....	9/19
Mildred Walsh.....	9/6	Shelly Bowles	9/22
Glenda Stalnaker.....	9/8		



Anniversaries

David & Gail Stanley	9/25
Cindy Jo & Lewis Daniel	9/26

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.



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Greenwood United Methodist Church

September 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SEPTEMBER IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH				1 Emma M. Nutt Day 5:30 p.m. Willing Workers	2 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	3 No Men's Breakfast 10 a.m. Electronics Recycling
4 Communion Sunday 11 a.m. Worship 	5 Labor Day 	6 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1 p.m. Ruth Circle	7 National Salami Day 	8 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers 	9 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	10 Sewing Machine Day 
11 Patriot's Day 11 a.m. Worship 	12 Chocolate Milk Shake Day 	13 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	14 Natl Cream-Filled Donut Day 	15 Felt Hat Day 	16 6 p.m. Food Distribution Friendship Quilters	17 Constitution Day 
18 11 a.m. Worship 	19 Intl Talk Like A Pirate Day 	20 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	21 International Peace Day 	22 Autumn Equinox Fall Begins 	23 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution	24 Intl Rabbit Day 
25 11 a.m. Worship 	26 Johnny Appleseed Day 	27 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	28 Natl Good Neighbor Day 	29 Confucius Day 	30 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	October 1 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 

Mark Your Calendars

- Oct. 5 Yom Kippur
- Oct. 10 Columbus Day
- Oct. 29 Special Annual Conference
..... Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair
- Oct. 31 Halloween
- Nov. 6 Daylight Saving time Ends
- Nov. 11 Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent

Our Mission

*The mission of The United
Methodist Church is to make
disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world.*

Matt. 28:19



Our Vision

*Loving
Growing
Serving*

**GREENWOOD ON FACEBOOK:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUMCVA**

