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Inertia, Not Apathy

By Steve Stalnaker

In addition to being known for getting conked on the head by an apple, Sir Isaac Newton is also famous for his Three Laws of Motion. These laws are the basis of what's called "Newtonian Physics" and the bane of high school students stuck in physics classes.



Newton's first law says, in part, that an object at rest tends to stay at rest unless acted on by an outside force. This is sometimes called the Law of Inertia.

While Newton's laws apply to physical objects, the first law also can be applied to the current state of Greenwood United Methodist Church. We are at rest and we will tend to stay at rest.

Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia says that, in psychology and sociology, "social" inertia is the resistance to change in societies or social groups. Or churches. Like Greenwood.

Recently, a former District Superintendent asked our pastor if "apathy still exists" at Greenwood. Wow, what a question! From my viewpoint, it's not apathy that's at issue in this church, it's inertia: we're at rest. We're not growing. If anything, we're shrinking.

(Continued on page 9)

In This Issue

From the Pastor	2
UMCOR Sunday	3
After School Update	4
Spring Forward	5
Admin Council.....	6
Bible Quiz.....	7
Calendar.....	8-9
March Food	10
March Scripture	10
Circles News.....	11
Food Donation	13
UMFS Thanks Letter.....	14
Greenwood Birthdays.....	15
Mark Your Calendars ..	Back

From the Pastor

Are You Hearing Voices?

While driving home the other night, I saw a billboard that read “Use Your Outside Voice.” In addition to a chuckle from me, it got me to thinking.



First, I thought of how often we tell children to use their inside voices. Second, I thought about how often people in our society or in the United Methodist Church feel they have no voice.

As this newsletter is going to print, General Conference is meeting to discuss legislation that was proposed to deal with issues outlined by the 2016 conference regarding wording in *The Book of Discipline* related to identity

and sexual orientation.

In preparing for the conference, many people have been writing and speaking about the different perspectives of why changes might be needed and what those changes mean. An underlying theme has been that many people felt like they had no voice in the denomination because of the terminology in *The Book of Discipline* and its regulations. But the concern with some of the legislation put forth is that it will rob other people of their voices. As a church, part of our call is to give a voice to the voiceless.

(Continued on page 10)

**Our March Communion
Offering Goes to:
The LAMB's Basket**



United Methodist Special Sunday

By Linda Walker

The United Methodist Church designates a number of Sundays throughout the year as Special Sundays. These are opportunities to recognize and support particular ministries with our offerings.

This month's Special Sunday:
UMCOR Sunday on March 31
(fourth Sunday of Lent).

Previously known as "One Great Hour of Sharing," this Sunday enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

**Current
Disaster Response**



When we join with other United Methodists to support UMCOR, we help equip UMCOR staff to work globally to alleviate suffering and advance hope and healing. Through relationships with local organizations and trained community leaders, UMCOR can activate its network and provide emergency funds as soon as they know of an urgent need.

Because you gave, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continued when tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma; when children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS; and when a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan. When the next mass crisis occurs, they will be prepared to respond.

UMCOR doesn't receive apportionment funds. Because of gifts received through offerings like UMCOR Sunday, the committee is able to cover its administrative costs.

Thank you in advance for your gifts in 2019. In John 13:34-35 Jesus said: "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another."

After School Update

What's Been Happening

By Brenda Shuler

So far we have had a wonderful, exciting year at our after school. We completed several service projects this year and have bonded with our after school students and their parents.

In January, we had a sad and happy moment, when Ms. Lydiah was accepted at Old Dominion University and had to leave us. We have missed her, but have been blessed by having Mary Bridgman, a student at Virginia Commonwealth University, come to work with us in February.

In October, we visited the ASPCA and took them some supplies, such as towels and puppy pads. In November, we went to the Dollar Tree to purchase items to fill two shoe boxes for the Samaritan Fund.

In December, we collected scarves, mittens gloves and hats, with the help of Greenwood and Laurel Park, to decorate a Christmas tree. Then we delivered them to the United Methodist Family Services (UMFS). See the UMFS Letter of Thanks on page 14.

In February, we took a trip to visit the UMFS and were given a wonderful tour of the campus. We also decorated Valentine bags filled with personal hygiene items to be handed out to the people who come to

(Continued on page 11)



Mary Bridgman,
New After School
Staffer



Trustees News

Bob Stapleton, Trustees Chairman has called a meeting of the Trustees Committee on Tuesday, March 12 in the Choir Room at 7 p.m.

DST Coming this Month



On Sunday, March 10, Daylight Saving Time (DST) begins for this year. We will “Spring Forward” setting our clocks ahead one hour.

DST is the practice of advancing clocks during summer months so that daylight lasts longer in the evening, making sunrise times later. Next November, we’ll adjust our clocks backward (“Fall Back”) to standard time. In effect, DST causes a lost hour of sleep in the spring and an extra hour

of sleep in the fall.

While DST was first proposed in 1895, the German Empire and Austria-Hungary organized the first nationwide implementation of DST on April 30, 1916. Many countries have implemented DST at various times since then, with the United States adopting DST in 1918.

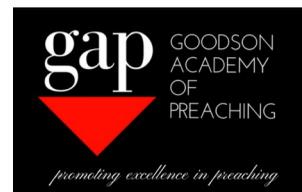
DST is generally not observed near the equator, where sunrise times do not vary enough to justify it. Some countries observe it only in some regions; for example, southern Brazil observes DST while equatorial Brazil does not. Only a minority of the world's population uses DST, because Asia and Africa generally do not observe it.

DST clock shifts sometimes complicate timekeeping and can disrupt travel, billing, record keeping, medical devices, heavy equipment and sleep patterns. Computer software often adjusts clocks automatically, but policy changes by various jurisdictions of DST dates and timings may be confusing.

– *Information for this article downloaded from Wikipedia.*

“Storytelling for Fun!”

Rev. Donald Davis, UM Elder, retired, will tell stories that appeal to all ages on Wednesday, March 27, 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue. No charge. See the flyer in the Narthex. sponsored by the Goodson Academy of Preaching, a ministry of the Virginia Conference UMC.



Council Sets 2019 Planning

At their planning meeting in January, your Greenwood Church Administrative Council established the dates for the church's basic activities from February through December.

The Council will meet again on Tuesday, March 5 and continue work on 2019 planning. If anyone has anything to add to the planning calendar, please notify anyone on the Council so that it can be worked into the calendar.



Our planned dates, so far:

March 5	Admin Council Meets
March 6	Ash Wednesday
March 13	Fellowship Dinner
March 31	Fifth Sunday at Laurel Park UMC
April 13	Ruth Circle Chocolate Easter Egg Preparation
April 14	Palm Sunday
April 20	Annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt
April 21	Easter Sunday
May 12	Mother's Day
May 27	Memorial Day (Obs.)
June 16	Father's Day
June 22—25	Virginia Annual Conference
June 30	Fifth Sunday at Greenwood
July 15—19	VBC 2019
Sep. 29	Fifth Sunday at Laurel Park UMC
Oct. 26	Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair
Dec. 29	Fifth Sunday at Greenwood

Bishop Lewis to Address Conference



"State of the Church: Where do we go from here?", an address by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis will be livestreamed on Monday, March 4, 10 to 11:30 a.m. by the Conference. See our website for details.



Bible Quiz: Famous Children in the Bible

By Linda Walker

Children are an important part of many of the stories in the Bible. Each month we will post information about a child mentioned in God's Word. See if you can guess the identity of the child and the Bible reference.

February's question was: "This boy was left to die in the desert." The answer is: **Ishmael**. In Genesis 21:8-21, we learn about Hagar, Abraham's Egyptian maidservant, who bore him a son, Ishmael. Abraham's wife, Sarah, mother of his son Isaac, forced Abraham to exile Hagar and Ishmael.

This situation greatly distressed Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your servant woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the servant woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

So Abraham gave bread and a skin of water to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-Sheba.

Later, when Hagar and Ishmael were dying of thirst in the desert and were despairing, God sent His angel to lead them to water and told Hagar: "Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is ... God will make a great nation of him."

God was with Ishmael, who grew up and lived in the wilderness of Paran. Ishmael became an expert with the bow. Hagar got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Traditionally, Muslims trace their ancestry to Abraham through Ishmael.

Here's the Bible Quiz Child for March:

This boy grew up to be the Savior of the world.

The answer will appear in the April *Twig Bender*.

March Food



Fellowship Dinner: Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Menu: Chicken 'n' Dumplings, Tossed Salad, Pound Cake with choice of toppings. Adults: \$7, ages 6—12: \$5, under 6: free. Sign up by Sunday, March 10 to reserve your place. Use the bulletin insert or call the church office at 804-266-5314.

FunRaisers Bag Lunches: Pick up after worship services on Sunday, March 24. Menu: Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Chips, Chocolate Pie — \$7 each. Sign up on the poster in the narthex at church.



Be Prepared — Read the Scriptures March Lectionary Readings

March 3	Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)
March 6 Ash Wed.	Joel 2:1-2; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
March 10	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
March 17	Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
March 24	Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
March 31	Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Overcoming Inertia

(Continued from page 1)

This month your Church Administrative Council will hold its second 2019 planning session (Tuesday, March 5, 7 p.m. in the Choir Room). The Council has already identified many planning dates for this year (see story on page 6) and we'll be working on more detailed planning for the rest of the year.



The council solicits your inputs on what we can do in 2019 to further our mission: Making disciples of all the world – as Jesus charged us in Matthew 28:19. And while that should always be our primary purpose, we need to remember that it's hard to make disciples anywhere without an underlying support structure, in Greenwood's case, more people in the church family.

Those of us still around continue to be enthusiastically involved in the missions of the church. There's just not as many of us as there once was. The congregation is getting older and attrition is gradually claiming the movers and shakers of this church. We need to find those younger people who will take our places in the lay leadership of the church.

We need to get over our inertia and get Greenwood moving to where God wants it. Pray for Greenwood and her church family. Pray for discernment for the Church Administrative Council.

Greenwood Women's Circles

The Ruth Circle will meet Wed. March 6 at Laurel Park UMC, immediately following the Ash Wednesday service there.

The Willing Workers Circle will not meet in March due to scheduling conflicts. We honored Longdale Elementary School teachers of the month for January and February.



Hearing Voices?

(Continued from page 2)

In the scriptures, Jesus gave literal voice to people as he healed them (Mark 7, 16, Luke 1:64). He gave symbolic voice to the woman at the well, the blind beggar and others whom he healed. He taught the disciples to look for the people that the rest of the world didn't see, didn't hear, didn't notice. He also taught them to sit and listen. Not always to fix, but to listen and to see. Sometimes having a voice in the conversation is enough. Sometimes being able to have an impact on the outcome of a decision, even if it goes differently than we hope, is enough. Being noticed, acknowledged, heard, included is something we all want.

If nothing else comes from this General Conference, hopefully every group, country, conference and district will feel they had a voice in the discussion; that their voices were heard. If we can do that, then our denomination may come out of this discussion stronger. Christ's church will be stronger.

The billboard stirred up other thoughts for me, though. Who in our community is speaking in an inside voice right now that we need to hear, but are not? Who is crying out in need? Or pain? Who needs help speaking in their outside voices so that the community can hear their message?

Is God speaking in an inside voice in my life, or our church life? Are we turning deaf ears?

The billboard was obviously trying to sell more billboards, but it had the impact of making me think about to whom, to what I may or may not be listening.

We are moving into the season of Lent. It is a season for listening, reflection and learning more about our faith. I invite you to join me in conversation this next Lenten time as we talk about who and what we are hearing and where God is leading us.

What voices are you hearing? What is God whispering into your heart?

Grace and peace,

Barbara



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

After School Update

(Continued from page 4)

Greenwood on Friday night to pick up food from our Food Connection Program.

As you can tell we have been really busy. We have some additional activities planned for the spring. In March, we are taking homemade cookies to our local fire station and they are giving us a tour and safety information. In April, we plan to make health kits to add to the ones that the Just Friends Sunday School Class is making at our church's annual Easter Egg Hunt. If you can think of other things we might do, please let us know.



We're looking forward to lots of fun and fellowship the rest of this year.

Food Donation Connection

March Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, Feb. 27: Charley Banks; Thursday, Feb. 28: Lewis Daniel; Friday, March 1: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, March 6: Betty and Raymond Ritchie; Thursday, March 7: Lewis Daniel; Friday, March 8: Brenda and Harry Shuler.

Wednesday, March 13: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, March 14: Lewis Daniel; Friday, March 15: Adamarye Patteson.

Wednesday, March 20: Charley Banks; Thursday, March 21: Lewis Daniel; Friday, March 22: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, March 27: Betty and Raymond Ritchie; Thursday, March 28: Lewis Daniel; Friday, March 29: Brenda and Harry Shuler.





Unwavering champions for children and families.

3900 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23230

Tel: 804.353.4461
Fax: 804.355.2334
www.umfs.org

December 21, 2018

Greenwood UMC-Afterschool
10040 Greenwood Rd
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Dear Friends,



Thank you! We received your generous gift-in-kind donation of scarves, gloves, and hats made on December 21, 2018. This gift will be used by Richmond TFC. You are truly an unwavering champion for high-risk children and families across Virginia!

You help UMFS impact the lives of over 3,200 individuals each year through treatment foster care, adoption, residential treatment, Project LIFE, and special education services at our Charterhouse Schools.

I would be honored to have you join us for a tour of our Richmond campus. The next tour is on Thursday January 17, 1:30 - 3:00pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by January 16 to Jill Gaynor, jgaynor@umfs.org or 804.254.9463.

Thank you again for your support of our children and families through your generous donation!

Sincerely,

Lisa Nicoll
Volunteer Specialist
804-239-1038
lnicoll@umfs.org

Thank you!

UMFS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. The IRS requires us to state that you received no goods or services in exchange for this gift. Please retain this written acknowledgment as a receipt for your tax records. FIN: 54-0505969. The value of gift-in-kind donations are assigned by the donor and cannot be stated in this letter. Please talk with your accountant or financial adviser about the tax benefits of your donation.



Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Janet Pittman.....	3/10	Roger Robillard	3/20
Jeffrey Patteson	3/12	Amanda Banks Langston.....	3/21
Samantha Stanley	3/15	Jeremy Horning.....	3/29
Austin Stanley	3/18		

Anniversaries



Dean & Janet Pittman3/11

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

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

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Greenwood UMC — March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6 p.m. Free Food	2 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Road Clean Up
3 Communion Sunday LAMB's Basket Sunday National An- them Day 11 a.m. Worship 	4 10 a.m. Bishop Lewis Address following Special Ses- sion of the UMC	5 Mardi Gras 6:30 p.m. Pack 744 6:30 p.m. Church Admin Council Meets	6 Ash Wednes- day Ash Wednesday Services: 4:30 p.m. GUMC (Ruth Circle meets after). 7 p.m. LPUMC	7 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	8 International Women's Day Proofreading Day 6 p.m. Free Food	9
10 2 a.m. Daylight Saving Time Begins 11 a.m. Worship 	11 7 p.m. Finance Committee Meets	12 Girl Scouts Day 6:30 p.m. Pack 744 7 p.m. Trustees 	13 6:30 p.m. Fel- lowship Dinner	14 National p Day 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers Meet	15 Ides of March 6 p.m. Free Food	16 National Quilting Day Friendship Quilters
17 St. Patrick's Day 11 a.m. Worship 	18	19 6:30 p.m. Pack 744	20 Spring Equi- nox Spring Begins 	21 Purim 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	22 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 10:30 a.m. Hid- den Treasures at The Her- mitage 6 p.m. Free Food	23 National Puppy Day 
24 11 a.m. Wor- ship Fun- 31 UMCOR Sunday 11 a.m. 5 th Sunday Wor-	25 Waffle Day 	26 6:30 p.m. Pack 744	27 7 p.m. Story Telling for Fun — Trinity UMC	28 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	29 6 p.m. Free Food	30 Take a Walk in the Park Day

Mark Your Calendars

April 14	Palm Sunday
April 21	Easter Sunday
May 12	Mother's Day
May 27	Memorial Day (Obs.)
June 16	Father's Day
June 22-25	Virginia Annual Conference
June 30	Fifth Sunday at Greenwood
July 15 – 19	VBC 2019

