



Prayer List

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A Future with Hope

By Linda Walker

With this January issue of your *Twig Bender*, 2020 begins. As you look forward to the new year, do you make New Year’s resolutions? Perhaps to eat healthier, exercise more, or to meet a personal goal. How about Greenwood UMC? What do you see for the church in 2020?

I asked several church members that question, and I’d like to share with you what they said.



Lewis Daniel

said: “Jesus is on the throne today and will be there every year in the future. I will also say that we need to continue praying diligently about what kind of church God needs in our part of Glen Allen in 2020 and beyond. We also need to be ready to accept God’s answer even if it is not the answer that might be comfortable for us. We must also continue to pray for and with Pastor Josette and her ideas and efforts for outreach.”

Charley Banks and **Gay Stapleton** both agreed we need to look seriously at the church’s finances and consider what expenses can be reduced. We want to continue to support missionary work around the world and

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From the Pastor

20/20 for 2020

By Pastor Josette L. Franklin

What is 20/20 Vision? It is when the human eye meets a standard of normal visual acuity-visual sight marked by facilely or effortlessly accurate discernment, judgement or assessment, measured at 20 feet. If you have 20/100 vision, it means you must be as close as 20 feet to see what a person with normal vision can see at 100 feet. Having 20/20 vision does not necessarily mean you have perfect vision. It only indicates the sharpness or clarity of vision at a distance. Some people can see well at a distance but are unable to bring nearer objects into focus. Others can see items that are close but cannot see those far away.

Many disciples have asked me about a vision for the Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge. There is even an article in this newsletter discussing various disciples' thoughts regarding this vision and their expectations for the future of Greenwood UMC. I am grateful for the varying thoughts and insights being shared. However, I am acutely aware the vision for both Greenwood and Laurel Park must come from a clear discernment by way of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 9:10-12, Ananias and Saul (to be Paul), received separate visions from the Lord. Neither would have known what God wanted them to do next without those visions. While they did not know the why of these visions, it was clear to them their directions were from the Lord. Even though there was fear, and some uncertainty, they obeyed God's voice. They met up and were in one-



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***Our January Communion
Offering Goes to the
Pastor's Discretionary Fund***



Communications Survey

By Steve Stalaker

Pastor Josette and the church leadership are committed to effective, timely communication within the Greenwood church family.



To that end, we asked the church family to give us feedback in a survey last month, rating the usefulness of each of our several communications methods. Many thanks to all of you who took the time to participate in giving us feedback on communications at Greenwood.

Respondents rated the overall bulletin and the Twig Bender as the most useful communications tools. Within the bulletin, the announcements were judged most effective. Judged least useful were the Greenwood web page, www.gumcva.org, and our social media presence.

The survey also asked if folks would be interested in receiving information via an email “blast” (i.e. a mass emailing) and those responding overwhelmingly endorsed this “new” means of information dissemination.

In addition to email blasts, several of those surveyed suggested we email the Twig Bender and use SMS Texting (a.k.a. text messaging) to distribute information. Email-

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2020 Church Planning Meeting

The Greenwood Church Administrative Council will lead its 2020 planning meeting on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Council encourages all members of the Greenwood church family to attend and give the Council feedback on how the church is doing and where the church needs to go in the new year to meet God’s will.

There will be refreshments.



After School Update

By Porter Schermerhorn

December 2019 started out much like any other month. Then, on December 9, we went to the Bass Pro Shops in Ashland. There we watched some impressive fish swimming in their large aquarium. Then we walked up a flight of stairs upon whose landing we were startled by the amazingly huge jaws, claws, teeth and size of a stuffed grizzly bear!

This was followed by a confessional, request-filled visit with Santa, whose elf took a complimentary picture of each child with the Big Guy himself. After all this, we rode our van to Wendy's and had Frosties.

The rest of the month was very eventful, as well. We studied the Christmas story and the meaning of Advent, learned a little about the function and power of angels and we were taught even more about Christmas and Advent by Pastor Josette.

Each child also made five wonderful keepsake ornaments and several handmade gift bags for their families, as well as a homemade rainbow blanket.

On the very last day of school, in addition to consuming way too much sugar, the children made two very large, hand-decorated gingerbread man cookies; one for a contest in which everyone won a sweet prize, and both for eating afterwards! Each child also received a small bag containing both fun and useful gifts, assembled by Miss Trish, with the aid of Saint Nick himself!

We also collected a total of 58 items for our Mitten Tree, and the kids would like to thank everyone who donated warm hats, gloves, scarves and, yes, mittens, to this very important project.

All in all, I would say that this was a great December, maybe our best ever. The After School kids, and all those associated with the After School Ministry, would like to wish everyone a belated Merry Christmas and a safe, prosperous, and healthy 2020!



Winter Driving Tips

Everyone has some safe winter driving tips this time of year; here's some downloaded from the AAA web site.

Rough weather conditions are a factor in more than half-a-million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths every winter, according to research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Here are some expert tips to help you be prepared and stay safe as winter weather comes our way.



- * **Stay home** if possible: heed travel warnings and stay off the roads unless you absolutely must go out.
- * **Always wear your seat belt.**
- * **Don't text or talk** on the phone while driving.
- * **Fill up your gas tank** so your fuel line won't freeze.
- * **Make sure your tires are properly inflated** to grip the road better.
- * **Pack emergency supplies:** a flashlight with extra batteries, water, a fully charged cellphone and car charger, ice scraper, blanket, warm winter clothing, jumper cables, a bag of kitty litter, reflective triangles/flares, shovel and cloth/paper towels.
- * **Windshield wipers:**
 - * If you can't garage your car, pull wipers away from your windshield before storms hit to prevent them from freezing to the windshield.
 - * Make sure windshield washer fluid is the correct type for winter; summer-

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Greenwood Circles

The **Ruth Circle** will not meet in January but will resume meetings in February.

The **Willing Workers Circle** will be taking their husbands out to eat on a date to be determined in January. Last month we honored the Longdale Elementary School Teacher of the Month with a small gift and we'll continue this practice in 2020.

Hope With a Future in 2020

(Continued from page 1)

in our community, but also need to pay for building repairs, salaries, electricity, etc.

We thank God for the pastors He has sent to our church in the past and **welcome Pastor Josette Franklin** as our shepherd. **Jackie Shultz** felt that Pastor Josette brings in a breath of fresh air and we should continue to do God's work.



Bob Stapleton noted that sometimes people will attend church and participate in activities and then leave. He suggested that we contact some of those people and ask them why they left.

Another member stated that he foresees an increase in evangelism for young families.

“As the Pastor,” said **Pastor Josette Franklin**, “it is my desire to see disciples grow and mature in their relationship with Jesus Christ; and for disciples to live their faith in their communities and be courageous enough to share their testimonies with people who do not know Christ and do not have a church home.

“Greenwood UMC is surrounded with several other churches in the faith community, so we will need to extend ourselves and evangelize outside of our immediate neighborhood as the Holy Spirit presents opportunities.

“My prayer for 2020 is for God to place on the inside of each of us a passion for leading people to Jesus Christ through: sharing our faith stories with the people God places in our paths; reflecting the light of Christ in our everyday private and public lives; nurturing and honoring healthy and loving relationships with each other; personally inviting and/or bringing individuals and families to worship services each week; and faithfully creating church culture that promotes and embraces inclusivity and diverse Christian expressions in worship services, events, and outreach.”

Twig Bender editor Steve Stalnaker opined that Greenwood needs to recruit younger people who will eventually take over Greenwood's leadership rolls and help

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Our Vision for 2020

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accord regarding what the Lord had told them to do in that season and followed through to the glory of God.

As we begin the Year of our Lord 2020, we must seek God's direction through Jesus Christ our Lord by listening for the Holy Spirit as we study the Scriptures and pray together. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Some of us may have ideas of what the vision might be for this looking from a distance, but we are not able to bring certain aspects into focus. Others of us may have ideas of what the vision might be for this looking up close, but we can't see certain aspects from far away. But the Holy Spirit will bring all things in focus, considering every aspect and every detail of God's ultimate plan.

We must be open to the leading of God's Spirit and not be afraid to make changes as God leads us to how we do outreach, make disciples and come together in worship. Just as God called Ananias and Saul out of their comfort zones to begin a radical change in the Christian church, so God will call us to make moves outside our comfort zones.

God, through Jesus Christ, has equipped us with a spirit of love, a spirit of power and a spirit of self-discipline. The vision? Wait for it! It will surely come-it will not delay. (Habakkuk 2:1-4).

Prayer Conference Call every Wednesday, 6 to 6:15 a.m. Dial in on 605-313-5111; code: 196886. Press star six (*6) to Mute your phone. **Except Wednesday, Jan. 1**: start off the new year with a family prayer at a time of your choosing.



Hope for 2020

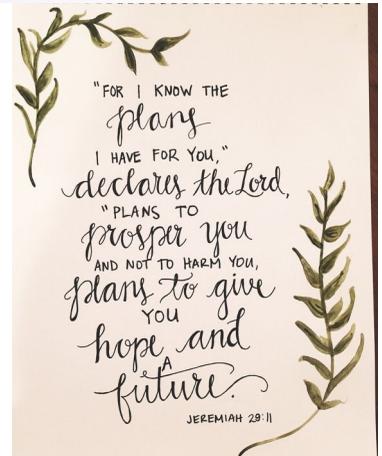
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us toward our mission of making disciples of all the world. To that end, we are trying to modernize and improve our communications with younger people (see the Communications Survey article on page 3).

I think we should continue to support each other at Greenwood in small groups (like Sunday School classes and women's circles) and pray for each other. I like to remember what Jeremiah told the exiles in Babylon: "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). These verses are for us today, too.

What about you, dear reader? What do you see for the church in 2020? If you have thoughts you'd like to share, you can contact the *Twig Bender* editor by calling him at (804) 266-5341 or e-mailing him at admin@gumcva.org. Also, consider joining the Church Administrative Council at the 2020 planning meeting at the church on January 11 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Please join me in a prayer that was published in *The Upper Room* recently, "Dear Lord, help us to face each change with faith. Provide stability, wisdom, and strength so that we may adapt to new roles and seasons well. Amen."



At left is a photo of twins David and Dan Walsh who did the brick work on the Greenwood Sanctuary building in 1971.

David, who passed away on January 11 last year, was a long time member of the Greenwood church family. He was the husband of Mildred Walsh, who lives near Greenwood. In the photo, David is at right and Dan is on the left.

This photo was sent to the *Twig Bender* by David's grandson, Clint Walsh, in memory of his late grandfather and in honor of his father.

Communications Survey Results

(Continued from page 3)

ing the newsletter will save paper and money (each newsletter takes a first-class stamp to mail) and ease the load on the Twig Bender production staff.

We are immediately starting the **Greenwood Electronic Communications Program** which will include email and texting blast communications and sending the newsletter to those wishing to receive it by email. We should note that each month's *Twig Bender*, along with archived back issues, is always available on our web site. Each Sunday's worship bulletin is also posted on the web site.

If you wish to receive information electronically through these programs, **please email admin@gumcva.org** with your preferred email address and mobile phone number. Indicate if you want the newsletter electronically or prefer to continue to receive a paper copy. To view the newsletter and bulletin electronically, you'll need an app that will read PDF (Portable Document Format) files, like Adobe Acrobat, which is a free download at www.adobe/acrobat.com.

We will continue our Internet and social media presences in an effort to reach out to younger potential disciples.

Again, **thanks for participating** in the Communications Survey. Going forward, please feel free to give the church leadership feedback on how well we're communicating with you.

Be Prepared — Read the Scriptures

January Lectionary Readings

January 5	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
January 12	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
January 19	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
January 26	Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

January Eating

Fellowship Dinner: Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m. Menu: Fried Chicken, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Dessert by Betty. Please make your reservations by Sunday, January 12; using the bulletin insert, or call the church office at (804) 266-5341 or e-mail admin@gumcva.org.



FunRaisers Bag Lunches: Pick up after worship service on Sunday, Jan. 26. Menu: Meatloaf sandwich, chips, chocolate cake. \$7 each. Sign up in the narthex.



Food Donation Connection

January Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, Jan. 1: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Jan. 2: Lewis Daniel; Friday, Jan. 3: Brenda and Harry Shuler.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Charley Banks; Thursday, Jan. 9: Lewis Daniel; Friday, Jan. 10: Adamarye Patteson.

Wednesday, Jan. 15: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Jan. 16: Lewis Daniel; Friday, Jan. 17: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, Jan. 22: Charley Banks; Thursday, Jan. 23: Lewis Daniel; Friday, Jan. 24: Brenda and Harry Shuler.

Wednesday, Jan. 29: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Jan. 30: Lewis Daniel; Friday, Jan 31: Adamarye Patteson.



Winter Driving Tips

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rated solvents will freeze and can cause cracking and serious damage to the washer reservoir.

- * **Never** pour hot water on windshield or windows, the glass might break. Use car's defroster to melt ice for easier removal.
- * Don't use windshield wipers to remove ice – this will damage the blades.
- * **Slow down:** Accelerate, turn and brake gradually. Adjust your speed to the road conditions and leave yourself ample room to stop. Allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you. Don't tailgate.
- * **Watch the traffic ahead:** Slow down immediately at the sight of brake lights, fish-tailing cars, sideways skids, or emergency flashers ahead.
- * **Never use cruise control on slippery roads:** Patches of ice can cause unexpected wheel spin and use of cruise control can slow driver response.
- * **Avoid unnecessarily changing lanes:** This increases the chances of hitting a patch of ice between lanes that could cause loss of vehicle control.
- * **Use extreme caution on bridges and overpasses:** Black ice typically forms first in shaded areas of the roadway and on bridges and overpasses that freeze first and melt last. Although the road leading up to a bridge may be fine, the bridge itself could be a sheet of ice.



Read more at www.aaa.com.

Sign Up for Altar Flowers

Don't forget the 2020 flower calendar posted in the back hall. You're invited to donate altar flowers in memory of, or in honor of, those you'd like to remember.

Cost of the altar flowers is \$20; please pay in advance.



Greenwood Church Family *Birthdays*

Linda Walker	1/6	Kaye Powell	1/20
Jeremy Coleman.....	1/10	Jaliyah Shuler.....	1/26
Patricia Davis Lawson.....	1/16	Jayden Shuler	1/26
Warren Murphey	1/20		

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.

UM Day at VA General Assembly

January 30: Annual visit by United Methodists to the Virginia General Assembly. Registration required. Go to <https://www.vaumc.org/UMDay>. For more information or talk to Pastor Josette about a group visit from our the Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge.



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School Supplies Drive 2020

We'll be collecting school supplies to support the pupils of Longdale Elementary School. There's a shopping list below, which will also be in the bulletins throughout January and posted on our web site. Please have your donations in the Sanctuary by Sunday, Feb. 2.

School Supply Drive Shopping List

Baby wipes	Hand wipe, antibacterial
Backpack or book bag	Headphones or earbuds, pair, inexpensive
Binder two-inch, 3-ring	Highlighters
Binder, 1-inch white w/clear sleeve on front, 3-ring	Index cards, 3x5, package
Binder, re-enforcers	Markers, broad line, "classic colors"
Box, pencil/crayon, no zippers	Markers, dry erase
Clay, 4-pack - yellow, green, red, blue	Notebook, spiral, wide ruled
Composition books, black & white marble	Paper, loose-leaf, wide-ruled, 3 hole
Crayons 24 pack, "classic colors"	Pencils #2
Divider, notebook, plastic tab, 3-ring	Pencils, pre-sharpened
Eraser, caps	Plastic bags, gallon size, slider closure
Erasers, large pink	Plastic bags, quart size, slider closure
Folder, plastic, 2 pockets	Plastic bags, snack size, slider closure
Folder, plastic, 3-pronged	Pouch, pencil, zippered, binder, 3-hole
Glue sticks, large	Scissors, child-safe, metal
Glue sticks, small	Scissors, child-safe, plastic
Hand sanitizer, liquid, bottle	Tissues, box



Greenwood January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day No Prayer Call Church Office Closed	2 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	3 6 p.m. Free Food	4 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast
5 Epiphany Sunday Communion and LAMB's Basket Sunday 11 a.m. Worship	6 Cuddle Up Day	7 6:30 p.m. Pack 744	8 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	9 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers Meet 	10 6 p.m. Free Food	11 10 a.m. 2020 Planning Session 
12 11 a.m. Worship Fellowship Dinner Sign Up Deadline	13 National Rubber Duckie Day 	14 5 p.m. Finance Committee Meets 6:30 p.m. Church Admin Council Meets 6:30 p.m. Pack 744	15 6 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner	16 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	17 6 p.m. Free Food	18 Winnie the Pooh Day <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Friendship Quilters</div>
19 11 a.m. Worship	20 Martin Luther King Day 	21 National Hugging Day 6:30 p.m. Pack 744	22 6 a.m. Prayer Call	23 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	24 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 10:30 a.m. Hidden Treasures at the Hermitage 6 p.m. Free	25 Chinese New Year 
26 11 a.m. Worship FunRaisers Bag Lunches Pickup	27 Chocolate Cake Day 	28 Data Privacy Day 6:30 p.m. Pack 744	29 6 a.m. Prayer Call	30 United Methodist Day at the General Assembly 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	31 6 p.m. Free Food	Feb. 1 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Mark Your Calendars

February 2School Supplies Drive Ends
February 14Valentine's Day
February 17 Presidents Day
March 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 17St. Patrick's Day
March 22 UMCOR Sunday
April 12Easter Sunday



**The Twig Bender Staff wishes you all a blessed,
prosperous New Year!**