



Leola Frayser's Family  
 Derrik Lamont Fulcher  
 Bob Carter  
 Richard Lewis  
 Lori Lohr  
 Rob Maxey  
 Jamison Simpson  
 Taylor Stapleton

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## What Would Willy Write?

By Steve Stalnaker

One of my favorite novels is John Grisham's *The Last Juror*. The main character is owner, publisher and editor of a fictional weekly newspaper in fictional Ford County Mississippi.



At one point, our intrepid young journalist – Willy Trainor – decides to visit each of the many churches in Ford County – one a week – and then write an article about each visit. Willy writes about the congregation, the pastor, the sermon, the choir and so forth for the

weekly edition of the fictional *Ford County Times*.

Assume for a minute that Willy Trainor is real and that he visits Greenwood United Methodist Church one Sunday for our 11 a.m. worship service. What would he write about our church?

Would Willy write about Pastor Barbara's sermon? Would he write about how she folds scripture, doctrine, personal experience and scholarly references into an uplifting, meaningful experience?

How about the music? What would Willy write about our small but talented choir? Our musical accompanist? Would he notice we don't have a permanent music director? Would he care?

(Continued on page 11)

*From the Pastor*

## Changing Seasons

Ahh, the tree pollen is finally beginning to dissipate! Spring has definitely sprung! Everywhere we see the evidence in the profusion of flowers, the leafing trees, the greening grass and the abundance of lawn weeds.



Ecclesiastes 3 tells us there is a time for all things. A time for spring allergies and a time for the winter doldrums included. A time to be born (welcome baby Derrik!) and a time to die (Leola lived to be 99!). A time to plant and a time to reap; a time to mourn and a time to dance.

A time to end projects and a time to start new ones. A time to stay and a time to move. A time to say goodbye and a time to welcome.

This is the season the Virginia Conference cabinet meets and determines, for the good of the churches and the pastors, who should be appointed where. This is the season when as a United Methodist Pastor I must begin preparing you to welcome your new pastor.

Recently, your staff-parish relations committee met with the district superintendent and with the projected new pastor to begin the transition. In the coming days, I will also meet with my projected new appointment's staff-parish relations committee. Not until May 19 will we be at liberty to announce who is going to be your new pastor and where I will be serving, effective the beginning of July.

This is a time of sadness and a time of anticipation. It is a time of preparation for

*(Continued on page 9)*

**Our May Communion  
Offering Goes to:  
CARITAS**



# *New Picture Directory Coming*

*By Linda Walker*

## **Coming this summer: a new church directory!**

The Greenwood/Laurel Park charge will be putting together a joint picture directory, starting the end of May.



Lifetouch, who has created directories for Greenwood before, will take our portraits, by appointment, on May 31 and June 1 in the Education Building. Bring your family in for a special portrait, or have a sitting for yourself.

You will be able to see your portraits almost immediately and be able to select a variety of picture packages. You will also receive a free 8" by 10" copy of your portrait, even if you don't purchase any of the available photo packages.

**Bring in a canned good** to your portrait appointment and receive a \$5 coupon off of any of those photo packages you may order. Each household whose pictures appear in the directory will receive a free directory. Additional directories will be available for a small cost.

If you can't make one of the two appointment days at Greenwood, you can have your portrait taken by Lifetouch at another church and it will be included in our directory. More details about this later.

**Alternate photographs** can be accepted if you can't make one of the appointment days or get your picture taken by Lifetouch elsewhere. These must be professional portraits (no snap shots), accompanied by a permission form (to deal with any copyright issues) and will cost \$5. More about this later as well.

So, **mark your calendars** for 1 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 31 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 and expect someone from the church to contact you soon to set up an appointment.

Finished directories will be available for distribution about the middle of July.

# Lifetouch.

# Vacation Bible Camp

*By Brenda Shuler*

Spring is in the air and the kids are already talking about swimming, summer, vacation and Bible Camp. This year the theme for Vacation Bible Camp is "ROAR."

We are really excited about this year's theme and about combining with Biltmore Baptist Church, again. We are planning for a full week and hoping to have even more of our neighbors come to learn about Jesus and His love.

We will be having VBC during the week of July 15-19. We will be meeting at Biltmore every night to serve a light supper at 6:00 pm and then participating in lessons from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

We still need help, so mark your calendar to come join us.




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## Time Again for Kits for Conference

It's time to start thinking about, and to start assembling, UMCOR Kits for Conference.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is currently focusing on three relief kits: **Cleaning Kits** (aka "Flood Buckets"), **Hygiene Kits** (aka "Health Kits") and **School Kits**.

Children participating in Greenwood's Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt and the kids from our After School Program collected and assembled 67 Hygiene Kits last month.

These kits, along with any Cleaning Kits and School Kits Greenwood and Laurel

Park produce, will be taken to Annual Conference in June.

UMCOR asks for \$1 per kit (\$1.50 for cleaning buckets) to cover processing and shipping and \$1

### 2019 Kits for Conference

*Moving Forward in God's Mission*  
Roanoke, Virginia



*(Continued on page 10)*

# Clothes Closet at Biltmore Baptist

*By Linda Walker*

“It’s not about giving away clothes. It’s about giving away love.” That’s what Ken Wright, the Pastor at Biltmore Baptist Church told me. He was talking about Biltmore’s Clothes Closet. He looks at the closet as a way to engage with people in the neighborhood and to show God’s love.

I took some used clothes to the church recently and happened to meet Pastor Ken. I wanted to learn more about the closet, so he graciously took some time out of his busy schedule to talk with me.

At Biltmore they accept gently used clothes for men, women and children and have the items available the second and fourth Saturdays each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Everything is free of charge to anyone who visits the closet.

The program started about 1 ½ years ago and was the idea of church member Andy Johnson. He was taking some ministry courses and wanted an active way to reach out to people. Currently they have 25 to 35 visitors when the closet is open.

Besides providing needed clothing, the program allows church members to volunteer at the closet and to interact with visitors and those who drop off items. Pastor Ken considers operation of the closet to be a training ground for evangelizing neighbors. He told me about a couple who visited the closet, got to talking with workers there, became volunteers at the closet, and joined the church.

In mid-April volunteers gathered all the leftover winter stock and boxed it up to make room for spring and summer attire. A church associate will take the leftovers to McDowell County in West Virginia (one of the poorest counties in the United States) for their use.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Medicine Bottle Donations

The Ruth Circle is collecting used pill bottles to send to the Matthew 25 Ministries of Evansburg UMC in Cincinnati, OH. There is a box in the narthex to put them in. Be sure and remove the prescription label.

# Food Donation Connection

By Adamarye Patteson

We have been averaging 20 people on any given Friday night to pick up food. If you would like to donate some nonperishable food to help supplement what we pick up from WaWa and Starbucks it will be greatly appreciated. You can bring it on Sunday and give it to Adamarye or Brenda and we will see that it is given out.



Thanks to all of the people who pick up food and give it out on Friday night. If you would like to start picking up food see or call Adamarye 804-266-6364.

## *May Pick Up Rotation*

Wednesday, May 1: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, May 2: Lewis Daniel; Friday, May 3: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, May 8: Betty and Raymond Ritchie; Thursday, May 9: Lewis Daniel; Friday, May 10: Brenda and Harry Shuler.

Wednesday, May 15: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, May 16: Lewis Daniel; Friday, May 17: Adamarye Patteson.

Wednesday, May 22: Charley Banks; Thursday, May 23: Lewis Daniel; Friday, May 24: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, May 29: Betty and Raymond Ritchie; Thursday, May 30: Lewis Daniel; Friday, May 31: Brenda and Harry Shuler.

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## Post General Conference Talk

Virginia Conference Bishop Peter Weaver will lead a Post General Conference conversation on Saturday, May 11 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Wrights Chapel UMC, 8063 Lady Smith Road, Ruther Glen. Both clergy and laity of the Richmond and Rappahannock River Districts are invited to attend.



# 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.

April's question was: **This boy was born holding on to his twin brother's heel.**  
The answer is: **Jacob.** In **Genesis 25:19-28** we learn about the twins:

"These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, and the elder shall serve the younger."



When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob."

Here's the Bible Quiz Child for May:

**This little girl was brought back to life by Jesus.**

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

# 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 is **Native American Ministries Sunday – May 5 – the Third Sunday of Easter.**

Every year, we set aside one Sunday to give generously to Native American ministries and provide seminarian scholarships for those who might not have a chance to go to college otherwise.

We have been honoring the rich history and presence of United Methodist Native Americans since 1988 – churches like New York's Onondaga Nation UMC and Nebraska's Native American Sacred Winds congregations.

There are 149 Native American congregations within the United Methodist denomination and over 21,000 Native American individuals. It is not uncommon to see tribal drums, native flutes or beautiful dancing play a big part of Sunday worship.

This Sunday serves to remind us of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. Thank you for your offering.

## May Grass Cutting Detail

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

- Week of May 6: ..... Bob Stapleton
- Week of May 13: ..... Lewis Daniel
- Week of May 20: ..... Harry Shuler
- Week of May 27: ..... Bob Stapleton



If anyone else would like to help with this summer's grass cutting, please give Bob Stapleton a call at 804-672-8408. Thank you from your Trustees.

# A Season for Everything

*(Continued from page 2)*

the transition. It is a time to dream about where you would like to see Greenwood and Laurel Park go under new direction. It is a time for us to complete our work and begin new projects, ministries and outreach opportunities.

I look forward to working with you as we make this transition the best it can be. I feel honored to have been your pastor and will miss you as I transition. But I pray that our paths will continue to cross. You will remain in my prayers. And I hope to continue friendships in the future.

While it is a time to change, that change may be one God will use to great advantage. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for you!

Grace and peace,

*Barbara*



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## Biltmore Clothes Closet

*(Continued from page 5)*

Plans are in the works with Hunton Baptist Church to expand the open closet hours to perhaps weekly.

If you would like to help this wonderful ministry, you can drop off clothing any time in the bin outside the church at 1300 New York Avenue in Glen Allen. If you have questions, you can contact the church at 804-901-4193. Please include this ministry in your prayers, asking for God's continued blessings and guidance.

They plan to have a big celebration in the fall to mark the church's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Be on the lookout for more information about that later.



## It's Kits for Conference Time Again

*(Continued from page 4)*

for toothpaste for each Hygiene Kit.

If you prefer to make a financial contribution to enable UMCOR to purchase relief kits, you can contribute \$75 for each Cleaning Kit, \$12 for each Hygiene Kit and \$11 for each School Kit.



Kit collection will be at the Virginia Conference Headquarters in Glen Allen on Wednesday, June 19 through Friday, June 21. Contact Kit Collection Coordinator, the Rev. Morris Fleischer, at (540) 544-7183 or [morrisfleischer@vaumc.org](mailto:morrisfleischer@vaumc.org) with any questions. Volunteers to help with the kits at Conference HQ are welcome.

Make checks payable to "Virginia Conference UMC," earmarked for "kits" which can be mailed to Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA, 23058 no later than August 31.

Kits for Conference is an annual mission endeavor for the Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge. Everyone's donations and time are greatly appreciated.

Kit contents and packing instructions are displayed in the narthex and available at UMCOR's website: [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org). Those wishing to assemble Cleaning Kits can obtain a clean 5-gallon bucket from Bob Stapleton.

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## Recycle/Shred Event Coming

Recycle your used electronics and shred your old documents at Henrico County's Special Collection Event Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1400 Best Plaza Drive (one block east of I-95 on E. Parham Road – the old Best Products location). Do not use plastic bags to bring electronics to be recycled. There is a fee for disposing of CRT TVs and monitors. CRTs require special handling due to the leaded glass and mercury they contain. \$23 for CRT less than 27" diagonal width, \$30 larger CRTs, payable by cash or check.



# What Would Willy Write?

*(Continued from page 1)*

As a visitor, would Willy be warmly greeted when he entered the sanctuary? Would he be welcomed by members of the congregation during the “Passing the Peace of Christ” part of the service? Would Willy later write about how welcomed he was made to feel?



Leafing through our bulletin, would Willy note the outreach activities in which Greenwood engages? Would the list impress him? Might Willy write about our great After School ministry and our Friday Free Food ministry?

What about you, dear reader? If you were going to write a newspaper feature article about Greenwood UMC, what would you write about? What impresses you about our church? Assuming, dear reader, that you talk to others about your church, what do you tell them about Greenwood? How often do you invite them to come see for themselves?

What can we, together as a congregation, do at Greenwood that’s worth writing about?

## Be Prepared — Read the Scriptures

### May Lectionary Readings

May 5	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-9
May 12	Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
May 19	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
May 26	Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29



## Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Izabel Stalnaker .....	5/2	Lathan Shuler .....	5/13
Bob Stapleton.....	5/4	Mary Walker.....	5/19
Kendra Thomas .....	5/7	Bob Smith .....	5/28
Patricia Rios.....	5/7	Steve Stalnaker.....	5/30
Jeremiah Frazier .....	5/11		

## Anniversaries



Adamarye & Riley Patteson.....	5/2	Gaynelle & James McFarland .....	5/16
Bobby & Jackie Schultz .....	5/8	Kristin Bellino & Frank Sotos .....	5/19
Jaroa & Kevin Favilla.....	5/10	Brenda & Harry Shuler.....	5/30

*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](mailto: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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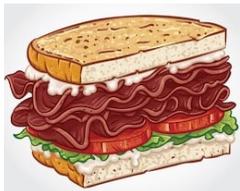
## Greenwood Women's Circles



**The Ruth Circle** will meet Wednesday night May 1 at Agnes Dalton's house at 7 p.m.. Thanks to everyone who bought our chocolate eggs. It helps with our mission projects all year.

**The Willing Workers Circle:** will meet as usual on Thursday, May 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the Just Friends Sunday School classroom.

## May Eating Opportunities



**Fellowship Dinner:** Wednesday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. Menu: BLT sandwich, cole slaw, baked apples, chips, carrot cake — \$7 per plate. Sign up on the bulletin insert, call the church office at (804) 266-5341 or e-mail [admin@gumcva.org](mailto:admin@gumcva.org) by May 5.

**FunRaisers Bag Lunches:** Pick up after worship services on Sunday, May 26. Menu: chicken salad sandwich, chips, strawberry pie. \$7 per lunch. Sign up in the narthex.

*Note: these will be the last Fellowship Dinners and FunRaisers Bag Lunches until September*

## Sign Up for Altar Flowers

Don't forget the 2019 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.



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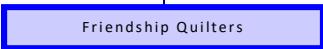
Jackie Schultz

Steve Stalnaker



# Greenwood UMC — May 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 May Day 7 p.m. Ruth Circle	2 5:30 p.m. Willing Workers 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	3 6 p.m. Free Food	4 Star Wars Day 8 a.m. Laurel Park UMC Fun Day 10 a.m. Henrico Shred/Recycle Event
5 Native American Ministries Special Sunday Communion Sunday LAMB's Basket Sunday 11 a.m. Worship	6 National Nurses Day  	7 6:30 p.m. Pack 744	8 V E Day 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner  	9 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers Meet	10 Military Spouses Day 6 p.m. Free Food  	11 National Train Day 2 p.m. Bishop's Conversation
12 Mother's Day 11 a.m. Worship  	13 7 p.m. Finance Committee Meets	14 6:30 p.m. Pack 744	15 Police Officers Memorial Day  	16 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	17 6 p.m. Free Food  	18 Armed Forces Day  
19 11 a.m. Worship	20 Pick Strawberries Day  	21 6:30 p.m. Pack 744	22 Maritime Day  	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 Food	25 National Missing Children Day
26 11 a.m. Worship FunRaisers Bag Lunches	27 Memorial Day  	28 6:30 p.m. Pack 744	29 Senior Health and Fitness Day	30 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	31 World No Tobacco Day 1 p.m. Directory Portraits 6 p.m. Free Food	<i>June 1</i> 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10 a.m. Directory Portraits



## Mark Your Calendars

June 1..... Directory Portrait Sessions  
June 9..... Pentecost  
June 16..... Father's Day  
June 19.....Kits for Conference Due  
June 20 — 22..... Virginia Annual Conference  
July 4 ..... Independence Day  
July 15 — 19.....Vacation Bible Camp

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