



June 2023



The Twig Bender

Pay Love Forward

By Steve Stalaker

Something really great happened to us last month. We were in Norfolk to help our son with some upgrades to his house and we went to breakfast at a little “mom ‘n’ pop” restaurant nearby.

When it came time to check out, I asked our server for the bill and she said, “It’s been taken care of ... don’t worry about it.” I was dumbfounded. Some anonymous fellow breakfast patron paid for our meal? Wow. When I asked her to confirm our bill was paid, our server said, “yes, but you can Pay It Forward.”

Well. OK, so let’s pay it forward. We spied an older couple a few tables away and I told our server, “We’ll pay for their breakfast.” A few minutes later, the “older couple’s” server brought their tab to us. As I was signing the credit card receipt, this server told me, “You’re the fifth customer to ‘pay it forward’ today; we’re trying to make it go all day.” Bemused but in a much better mood, we left and went to work on our son’s house.



The Pancake House & Grill has been in business there for many years in Norfolk’s

(Continued on page 11)



Greenwood Prayer Ministry

Our Nation



The Greenwood and Laurel Park Church Families,
Greenwood Learning Center,

Roger Eckwright, The Family of William Gibbs, Trish Hayes, Donna Hunt, Lori Lohr, Dominic LeMerise, Riley Patteson, Gregory Pittman, Jr. and Family, Lacye Ryan, Robbie Smith, Charlotte Staggs, Robbie Tyree, Mary Walker, Catherine Wallace.

From the Pastor

I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ ..." — *Philippians 1:6 NRSVUE*

When I submitted my application in 2018 to become a local pastor from another fellowship (denomination), I did so through what was then the Alexandria District. The District Superintendent at that time, Dr. Mickle, told me he needed to put me in a full-time appointment, but didn't have one in Alexandria, Virginia. He said I could end up in Virginia Beach or as far as Roanoke. Silently I told God, "wherever You need me I will go."



The first week of April 2019 I got a call from Dr. Mickle and Reverend Pete Moon telling me they had a Cross Racial/Cross Cultural appointment for me in Richmond in a two-point charge. I accepted.

None of us could have imagined the challenges we would face. We made our plans, but they were derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. And here we are four years after my arrival, grateful to still be here, grateful for another chance, grateful for what we were able to accomplish in ministry together, and grateful for God's favor.

Sadly, we have suffered the loss of loved ones from 2019 through this year, both at Greenwood UMC and Laurel Park UMC; and re-

(Continued on page 9)

In This Issue

| | |
|---|----|
| From the Pastor | 2 |
| Greenwood Learning Center | 3 |
| Greenwood Grads | 4 |
| Men's Breakfast | 5 |
| Women's Circles | 5 |
| Exchange Students | 6 |
| Stewardship | 7 |
| June Meetings | 7 |
| Food Connection | 8 |
| June Scriptures | 8 |
| Mission Opportunities | 10 |
| Paperless | 12 |
| Vital Statistics | 13 |
| Calendar | 14 |
| Upcoming Dates | 15 |

Greenwood Learning Center Thanks for a Great Year

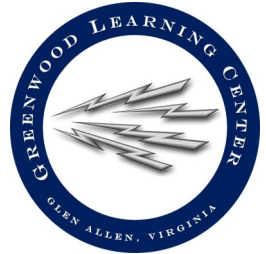
Greenwood's after school ministry will wrap up the school year on Friday, June 9. We have had a fun year with our four students. We're grateful to Miss Trish, Miss Dorothy and Nana Jo (Trish's mom) for their hard work making this a good year for the kids at the Greenwood Learning Center.

The Greenwood Church Administrative Council voted in May to continue the GLC next fall. We will be actively working over the summer to recruit more students to join our present four that we expect to return. It's an uphill battle because we're competing against the Henrico County Public School system for after school care. Of course, ours is better and it's Christianity-oriented, so that's what we'll be concentrating on as we bring more students on.

The GLC staff and kids are also grateful to all the People of Greenwood and Laurel Park who have supported us over this past year with their time and donations.

We are planning on an Open House on Thursday, Aug. 17 and will open the Fall Session of the GLC on Monday, Aug. 21.

We hope everyone has a blessed, safe summer. See you in the Fall!



*Greenwood's
June Communion Offering:
SAMARITAN FUND*

Greenwood Grads 2023

The *Twig Bender* congratulates these members of the extended Greenwood Church family who are graduating this year.

Nicholas Hayes, son of GLC director Trish Hayes and her husband Danny, is graduating from Henrico High School and will attend UVA in the fall.

James Barrett Shannon, grandson of Ray and Carolyn Smith, graduated from the University of Oklahoma (*Boomer Sooner!*) with degrees in math and computer science. He will be working for an aeronautical and missile company in Phoenix, Arizona.

Austin Skloss, grandson of Bob and Gay Stapleton, graduated from Waukesha, Wisconsin Community College with an associate degree in graphic design. He will Attend Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio

Rachel Soroka, Janet Pittman's niece, is graduating from VCU with a master's degree in social work. She will be working with senior citizens.

Laurel Wallace, granddaughter of Catherine Wallace, is graduating from VMI.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

Greenwood's Women's Circles

THE RUTH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, June 6 at 1 p.m. in the home of Betty Ritchie. Be sure and bring a covered dish to share. We will be doing our first chapter in our study book.

THE WILLING WORKERS CIRCLE is taking the summer off. They'll meet again in September.



Join Men's Breakfast

By Ray Smith

Although the writer of the Book of Hebrews remains uncertain, even to this day, the message to 21st Century Christians is quite clear. That author tells us to assemble ourselves together frequently for the purpose of encouraging and uplifting one another in the faith of Jesus. "...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching" — *Hebrews 10:25 NRSVUE*.



Long ago, the Greenwood UMC men selected the first Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. as Men's Breakfast time. The Men of Greenwood extend an invitation — particularly to the Men of Laurel Park

UMC — to meet with us on the first Saturday (unless otherwise notified) each month for our Men's breakfast.

Join us for food, fun and fellowship. See you this month on June 3 in the

Greenwood Fellowship Hall. Enjoy God's blessings.



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



Host an Exchange Student

Have an amazing experience this summer! Students from Spain and France need host families in July.

Host one of these students, ages 13-17, in your home for three to four weeks. Learn about their culture while they learn about living with an American family by just being a part of what you regularly do.



Compass USA has a variety of programs to suit the host family's schedules. Host families receive stipends to help out with expenses. Compass USA can help work out transportation or vacation concerns. This will be a rich experience for your family!

Families wishing to host must be either married couples with or without children, or single parents with at least one child living at home. English must be the primary language spoken in the home. The foreign student must have a private bedroom or share a private room with a family member of the same sex and similar age. The student must have her or his own bed.

Please contact Compass USA Regional Manager Debbie Hardy at 804-909-3190 or email debbiehardy2003@yahoo.com.

Compass USA is committed to the promotion of quality international education and cultural training. Their enthusiastic staff works closely with the best international educational organizations to offer students from around the world the opportunity to live the "American Experience." Read more about Compass USA at their website: <https://www.compass-usa.net/>.

From the Trustees

If you pass the church in the next couple of weeks and notice Hungerford trucks in the parking lot, there's no reason for alarm. Hungerford is replacing the air conditioner unit and should be done before June 15. The new AC unit will provide us with many summers of carefree, pleasant worship.



GUMC Stewardship

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

Stewardship is a personal, spiritual discipline that goes beyond necessary financial support. 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 in 2023 we need \$2,612 to support Greenwood's missions and operating expenses. In May, we averaged \$2,457 each week, or 94 per cent of our budget. The table at right shows each Sunday's giving.

Greenwood Stewardship May 2023

| Date | Present | Giving |
|-------|---------|---------|
| 05/07 | 30 | \$2,626 |
| 05/14 | 28 | \$4,418 |
| 05/21 | 29 | \$1,387 |
| 05/28 | 26 | \$1,398 |



Sign Up for Altar Flowers

Don't forget the 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.

Church Lay Leadership Meetings

The Greenwood **Finance Committee** will meet Tuesday June 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

Greenwood's **Administrative Council** will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20 in the choir room.



Food Donation Connection

June Pick Up Rotation

The food pantry served 43 families in April. They really appreciate all of the food but would love more canned fruit and boxed cereal. When you go to the grocery store just pick up a couple of cans of fruit or a box of cereal. Thanks to everyone who gives of their time to pick up the groceries. Remember to keep all of the volunteers in your prayers.



Wednesday, May 31: Jean Mowatt ; Thursday, June 1: Susan Johnston; Friday, June 2: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, June 7: Charley Banks; Thursday, June 8: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, June 9: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, June 14: Jean Mowatt; Thursday, June 15: Susan Johnston; Friday, June 16: Scott Hudson.

Wednesday, June 21: Charley Banks; Thursday, June 22: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, June 23: Scott Hudson.

Wednesday, June 28: Jean Mowatt; Thursday, June 29: Susan Johnston; Friday, June 30: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.



JUNE SCRIPTURES

| | |
|---------|--|
| June 4 | Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20. |
| June 11 | Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26. |
| June 18 | Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew |
| June 25 | Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 10:24-39 |

I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

(Continued from page 2)

gretfully, the closing of our sister church Laurel Park, effective July 1. But God in His mercy comforts us and provides for us in the midst of grief. God will not leave us alone. God has a plan.

I don't know what tomorrow will bring, but **I know Who holds tomorrow**. And I am confident that God will faithfully carry on to completion the good work of ministry He started in this Greenwood—Laurel Park Charge, until the day of Christ Jesus according to the faith and power God has placed in us, the body of Christ, His church. The work is being done in each of you. Please remember, the church is not the buildings in which we gather—you are. Those of us who have persevered in the Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge have continued to grow spiritually—this is something to celebrate. None of us are as we were when we started this journey together in June 2019 as Pastor and Congregation. I and you have been blessed to not only serve together but open our hearts even wider to new cultural exchanges and understandings.

Thank you all so much for receiving me and my daughters. Thank you for praying for us and for having the desire to know us better and helping us to know you better. Thank you (you know who you are) for helping to care for and look out for Madison instinctively and in my absence. Thank you for your flexibility and for your obedience to the Spirit of God working in you. I see you. I love you. And I will miss you.

FAIR WINDS
AND
FOLLOWING
SEAS



Peace and blessings to all,

— *Reverend Josette Franklin*

Editor's note: It has been my great privilege to work with Rev. Franklin over the past four years. It would be stretching credibility to say we always saw eye to eye, but we always agreed on the direction in which she was leading the Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge. I expect to hear big things about Pastor Josette going forward. In Navy terms, I wish her "Fair Winds and Following Seas." God bless Reverend Josette L. Franklin, Lydia, Madison and all her family.

Greenwood Ministry Opportunities

Opportunities to use your spiritual gifts in support of Greenwood's ministries abound. Here are some of our ministries and whom you can contact to help out.

| MINISTRY | CONTACT | PHONE |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Aggie's Attic | Susan Johnston | 804-515-5652 |
| After School Volunteer | Trish Hayes | 804-704-2566 |
| Audio & Visual Media | Steve Stalnaker | 804-513-8397 |
| Choir | Lewis Daniel | 804-614-8153 |
| Church Office Volunteer | Gay Stapleton | 804-672-8408 |
| Community Outreach | Josette Franklin | 804-238-9318 |
| Finance | Adamarye Patteson | 804-266-6364 |
| Food Donation Connection | Adamarye Patteson | 804-266-6364 |
| Greeters & Hospitality | Roger Eckwright | 804-572-4282 |
| Groundskeepers | Bob Stapleton | 804-672-8408 |
| Liturgist | Lewis Daniel | 804-614-8153 |
| Men's Breakfast | Charley Banks | 804-513-5417 |
| Offering Counters | Nancy Lloyd | 804-339-9013 |
| Prayer Chain | Glenda Stalnaker | 804-755-6767 |
| Ruth Circle | Adamarye Patteson | 804-266-6364 |
| Social Media | Josette Franklin | 804-238-9318 |
| Trustees | Bob Stapleton | 804-672-8408 |
| <i>Twig Bender</i> Newsletter | Steve Stalnaker | 804-513-8397 |
| Willing Workers Circle | Glenda Stalnaker | 804-755-6767 |

PAY LOVE FORWARD

(Continued from page 1)

Ward's Corner. They serve breakfast and lunch only, which I thought was interesting since there was a full bar, featuring mimosas, at the back of the dining room. So we could have had a champagne breakfast if we'd only known. The grill's owner said that a customer initiated this "pay it forward" event that day.



"Pay It Forward" is not a new concept. According to online encyclopedia Wikipedia, "pay it forward" is an expression for describing the beneficiary of a good deed repaying the kindness to others instead of to the original benefactor. Wikipedia says the concept is a key plot element in a play by ancient Greek playwright Menander in 317 B.C.

Closer to home, in her 1916 book *In the Garden of Delight*, Lily Hardy Hammond reflects, "I never repaid great-aunt Letitia's love to her, any more than she repaid her mother's. You don't pay love back; you pay it forward."

Paying love forward is a basic tenet of our faith. Jesus admonished us to love one another. It's the right thing to do. At Greenwood, one way we express this is to welcome people to God's house in Christian fellowship.

As we welcome a new pastor, as we welcome folks from Laurel Park, as we welcome other visitors, we will pay forward the Love of Christ to these sisters and brothers in faith.

See you in church, in Christian fellowship.



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>. And in living color, too. 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*.

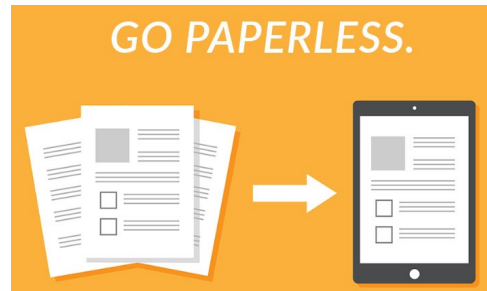
To go paperless, email the church office at admin@gumcva.org, call the office at 804-266-5341 or just tell your newsletter editor.

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

But, don't select a paperless *Twig Bender* just because you might think that 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.





Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Adamarye Patteson..... 6/11 Jean Mowatt 6/27

Anniversaries

Betty & Raymond Ritchie 6/9
Paul & Teresa McCartney 6/26
Daniel & Amanda Langston..... 6/27



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.

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



The 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
Twig Bender editor: Steve Stalnaker

Web site: www.gumcva.org




© 2023 Greenwood UMC — all rights reserved



Greenwood United Methodist Church

June 2023



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| <div style="background-color: #4F7942; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">JUNE IS ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH</h3> </div> | | | | 1 6:30 p.m. Choir Prac- tice  | 2 Nat'l Donut Day 6 p.m. Food Distribu- tion | 3 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast  |
| 4 Commu- ion Sunday Battle of Midway 1942 11 a.m. Wor- ship | 5 Hot Air Bal- loon Day  | 6 D-Day 1944 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1 p.m. Ruth Circle 6:30 p.m. | 7 Chocolate Ice Cream Day  | 8 6:30 p.m. Choir Prac- tice 7 p.m. Rich- mond Beekeepers | 9 School Year Ends 6 p.m. Food Distribu- tion | 10 Iced Tea Day  |
| 11 11 a.m. Wor- ship  | 12 Red Rose Day  | 13 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6:30 p.m. Finance Cmte. | 14 Flag Day  | <div style="background-color: #4F7942; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> Virginia Annual Conference </div> | | |
| | | | | | <div style="background-color: #4F7942; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> Friendship Quilters </div> | |
| 18 Father's Day 11 a.m. Wor- ship  | 19 Juneteenth  | 20 8 a.m. Prayer Call 7 p.m. Ad- min Coun- cil | 21 Summer Solstice  | 22 6:30 p.m. Choir Prac- tice  | 23 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribu- tion | 24 Swim a Lap Day  |
| 25 11 a.m. Wor- ship 12:15 p.m. Farewell Reception | 26 Chocolate Pudding Day  | 27 8 a.m. Prayer Call  | 28 Paul Bunyan Day  | 29 Camera Day  | 30 Meteor Watch Day  | July 1  |

Mark Your Calendars

July 2 Welcome Reception for Pastor TaeWon Kang
 July 4 Independence Day
 Aug. 21 First Day of School; GLC Opens
 Sep. 4 Labor Day
 Oct. 9 Columbus Day
 Oct. 31 Halloween
 Nov. 1 All Saints Day
 Nov. 7 Election Day
 Nov. 11 Veterans Day
 Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Day
 Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent



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

