



From the Pastor's Desk

Agape, Philia, even Eros Are In the Air at Greenwood UMC!



The first verb in Greenwood's tagline, "Loving. Growing. Serving." is love. February is traditionally known as a month of love with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day. In the Christian tradition, we celebrate three kinds of love described in the New Testament: Philia: inspired by the deep bonds of friendship and community, Eros: the romantic feelings between two people, Agape: defined as God's unconditional love for us. For Greenwood, February will be a time to celebrate all three!

During February we will engage in acts of philia when we gather to listen, support, and learn from one another in a variety of settings, Prayer Call (check out Mary Cullom's article on page 7), Men's Breakfast, and Ruth Circle. Even when we gather for our committee work, it's the friendship and kinship we share which enable us to collaborate together so well.

The Fellowship Dinner on February 9 will include a touch of eros with a Valentine theme. It will be a festive time to break bread with your sweetheart and friends. And check out the menu on page 4. You don't want to miss it! In worship, on Sunday, February 16, we will have an experience of God's unconditional love for us with Agape Mail - a time when we will write notes of affirmation to one another as a way to practice and experience what it means to be accepted in the Body of Christ no matter who we are, where we've been, or what we've done. This agape love will be extended to our community through the Food Connection Ministry, and the many missions supported through Aggie's Attic as we seek to love our neighbors without expecting anything in return.

In I Corinthians 13, traditionally known as the "love chapter" in our scriptures, Paul writes, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." At Greenwood, we have the chance to experience the width and breadth of what it means to love in the Body of Christ: to bear, rejoice, hope, believe, endure...together.

With Agape, Pastor Crystal

Celebrating 150 Years of Greenwood

Greenwood Ties That Bind: Anne Z. Manning



Sometimes it only takes a few years for enduring bonds to form within a church community. On Wednesday, January 22, Pastor Crystal received a call in the main office from Libby Miles. Her parents, Anne Z. Manning and Thomas Manning, Esq and founding member of the law firm now known as Allen, Allen, and Allen attended Greenwood with their three children. Mr. Manning was the nephew of Rev. Harwood Owen who served as pastor to Greenwood UMC from 1952-1961. The Mannings participated in all manner of congregational life until they left for North Carolina. At the time Libby was just six years old. Ms. Miles shared that Mrs. Manning, recently of River Landing in Colfax, NC passed on January 16, 2025, having celebrated her 100th birthday in August of 2024. In the

course of the conversation, Ms. Miles asked if Pastor Crystal would be able to preside over the interment of her mother's remains at a local cemetery. "We would be honored to help Mrs. Manning come home," said Rev. Sygeel "I think mother would be so pleased to know that the people of Greenwood are caring for her in this way." Even after decades, the connections made at Greenwood UMC endure for the Manning family. Added Ms. Miles, "Our time in Glen Allen really was the happiest of our lives."

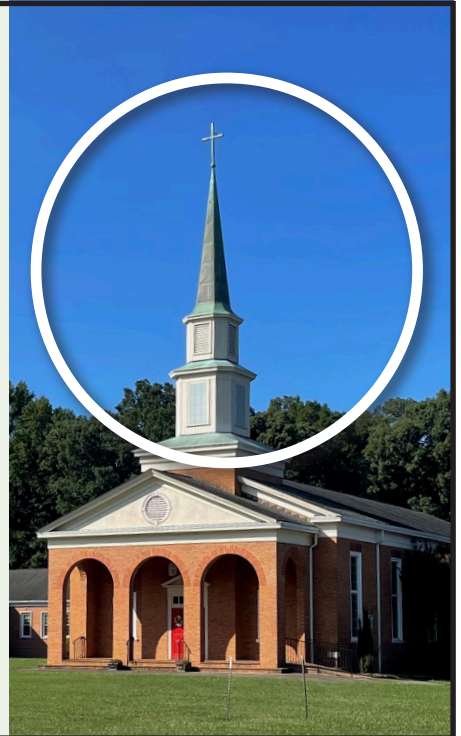
SAVE THE DATE: *Sesquicentennial Celebration*

We're turning 150 plus One!

On May 3, 1874, the first meeting of Greenwood United Methodist Church took place under an arbor located at the current corner of Greenwood and Francis Roads. On Sunday, May 18, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will preach as Greenwood turns the page from its 150th to its 151st year.

A Day to Ring the Bell

Our Committee is continuing to make plans! Most recently they decided to ring the steeple bell, originally given in 1921 as a memorial by two men, the son of Mrs. Etta Gray Tiller (Frank Tiller) and the husband of Mrs. Polly King Taylor (Hayward F. Taylor), as part of the festivities for the day. Former clergy and their family members are also being invited to participate.



Greenwood's Dream Event: A Time to Reflect on Who We Are and Where We're Going



Greenwood has a 150 year legacy of serving Glen Allen and beyond. Quality worship, a commitment to mission, and substantive Christian education have all been hallmarks of our church. Like many churches, Greenwood also faces challenges: an aging membership, recovery from closures during COVID, and loss of members after General Conference (2024). On Sunday, January 26, 25 members gathered in the Fellowship Hall to begin a discernment process for Greenwood's future. Rev. Dr. Jonathan Page guided members in identifying the make up of the congregation by asking:

1. **When did you first come to Greenwood?**
2. **What keeps you at Greenwood?**
3. **What do you hope for Greenwood's future?**



The exercise revealed a spectrum of attendance from over 70 years to less than two. People shared that fellowship, mission, and a commitment to Christ were all reasons to be a part of the congregation. A variety of hopes were expressed with a primary focus on growth in membership.

Next, Rev. Page led the membership in an exercise to help identify the following values:

- **Core:** this is, at the core, who we are
- **Accidental:** things that matter, but might not be essential to our mission
- **Permission-to-play:** things that matter, but aren't essential to our identity
- **Aspirational:** things we hope to be true about us



This event was the first of three possible events with the next two focusing on identifying key elements of Greenwood's future mission and ministry. A report from the first event will be shared with the congregation, as well as demographic information on the make-up of the community surrounding Greenwood within a 2 mile radius.

Mark Your Calendars for Dream Event Part II! The Dream Event was a wonderful start to an important process for Greenwood UMC. Our next session with Rev. Page will be on Sunday, February 23 immediately following worship. Sack lunches will be available to purchase or attendees can bring their own from home. Drinks provided.



CALENDAR

WINTER 2025

- 2-05 Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee Meeting, 2:00 pm
- 2-06 Aggie's Attic Sale: 30% off furniture, 50% off everything else
- 2-09 Fellowship Dinner, Immediately Following Worship
- 2-11 Finance Committee Meeting, 2:00 pm
Administrative Council Meeting, 3:00 pm
- 2-13 Richmond BeeKeepers meeting
- 2-15 The Friendship Quilters, Every Third Saturday
- 2-17 President's Day Observed
- 2-18 Sesquicentennial Committee, 10:00 am
- 2-19 Blue and Gold Scout Banquet
- 2-22 Richmond City Rug Hookers, Every Fourth Saturday
- 2-23 Dream Event part 2, with sack lunch
- 3-01 Men's Breakfast Resumes, 8:00 am

LOOKING FORWARD TO FELLOWSHIP IN 2025

**Fellowship Dinners will resume
on Sunday, February 9**

**MENU: Ham, Sweet Potatoes,
Pickled Beets, Peas and Carrots,
with an assortment of desserts**

Be sure to sign up using your bulletin insert!



**Men's Breakfast will resume
on Saturday, March 1**

**8:00am-9:30-ish
Fellowship Hall**

Contact Charley Banks for more details:
CharleyBanks@aol.com





Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Pastor Crystal • February 6
 Nick Hayes • February 14
 Riley Patteson • February 19
 Annette Calderone • February 21
 Harry Shuler • February 28

ANNIVERSARIES



Anniversaries will return in April.

FINANCIAL GIVING

Members continue to give with faithfulness. Funds are used for staff salaries, church operations, and programming. These ministries are possible because of your generosity—thank you!

DATE	PRESENT	GIVING
01-05	28	\$2,755
01-12	inclement weather	
01-19	30	\$2,949
01-26	35	\$1,044

UNITED METHODIST DAY AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Susan Johnston and Rev. Sygeel attended General Assembly Day on Thursday, January 30 with hundreds of other United Methodists from across the Commonwealth. Participants gathered at the Pace Center where they were addressed by Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson before departing to meet with state legislators. General Assembly day is a partnership that has existed between VAUMC and the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy for over 30 years. Events such as this create spaces for United Methodists to live out the Social Principles of our tradition. For more information on how our denomination is engaged in advocacy, visit: <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy>


OUR MISSION

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

—Matthew 28:19

OUR VISION

Loving • Growing • Serving

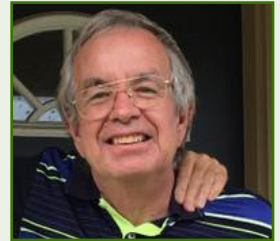


Opportunities for Mission and Service

Food Connection Volunteer Update!

In recent months, Greenwood has sounded the call for another volunteer at Food Connection. Because Greenwood members are always ready to answer the call, Dann Ladd has joined the Food Connection Team on Friday evenings. Mr. Ladd's warm smile and long-time volunteer experience will enhance our ability to serve our Food Connection guests with hospitality and give our long-standing volunteers additional support. Thank you to all of our volunteers and thank you, Dann Ladd for stepping into this new role.

Photos, top to bottom: Dann Ladd, newest Food Connection Volunteer, Peter Carty, Food Connection Volunteer, Trish Hayes, Food Connection Volunteer Manager



VAUMC Climate Summit: Hope in Action for Creation Justice

Join us on Saturday, March 8th, 2025 at Randolph-Macon College & Duncan Memorial Church Ashland, VA, from 9:30-4pm (this includes lunch supplied through RM-C, paid for thru the \$25 registration fee and \$5 for students and youth ministers/directors)

Our goal is to gather "stakeholders" key to the VAUMC response to God's call for Climate & Racial Justice, Sustainability in Climate Change, and The Net Zero by 2050 Resolution. Go to vaumc.org/climate-summit/to to download the brochure and get workshop leader information. The deadline to register is Saturday, March 1, 2025. For further questions, please contact Ellen Comstock via e-mail at ellencomstock@vaumc.org.

UMCOR Supports Wildfire Relief

On January 7, strong Santa Ana winds in Los Angeles caused wildfires to spread rapidly in multiple communities. Thousands of homes and businesses have been destroyed, as well as multiple local United Methodist Churches. Preliminary assessments of the damage is underway. UMCOR has awarded two solidarity grants to the California-Pacific Annual Conference to undergird their immediate relief efforts. This includes evacuee support like food and essential supplies as well as support for volunteer efforts and other relief activities. Donate to support this disaster response effort. Use the QR code to give now.



Aggie's Attic Continues Work in Our Community

During the holiday season, Aggie's Attic Backpack Ministry, by Lori Lohr in partnership with Glen Allen Baptist Church, continued its mission by feeding food insecure school children in the community. In addition, we also provided financial help to families in our community for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Over \$2,500 in gift cards were presented to area school staff for disbursement. A special thanks to Aggie's Attic Board Member, Susan Forthuber, for purchasing and delivering the gift cards to the schools.



Monthly 50% Off Sale

Did you know that Aggie's Attic has a monthly 50% Off Sale, where everything in the store is half off, except for furniture, which is 30% off. The sale is held on the First Thursday of each month and our next sale will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025. Come visit us in The Hub Shopping Center at 6913 Lakeside Avenue, Wednesday through Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm each day!

Volunteer Match Program

Aggie's Attic recently registered for and has been granted an Employee Identification Number (or EIN). Having this number will help us join a program called Volunteer Match that can hopefully match us with more volunteers that are able to work in the retail store. This number will also come in handy when applying for public grants and other funding for projects.

Keep in Touch!

We now have a dedicated e-mail address for Aggie's Attic: AggiesAttic6913@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook by searching for Aggie's Attic Thrift Store. If you aren't following our page already, please consider doing so and liking and sharing our posts as much as possible: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057408972727>



Our Ministry of Prayer by Mary Cullom

If you haven't participated in the Greenwood UMC prayer call with Pastor Crystal on Tuesday mornings, you are missing out quite a bit! Pastor Crystal has a devotional with a scripture reading. We then share our joys and concerns as we feel led. At the end, Pastor Crystal closes with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer. We are learning about each other and the world around us. There is much love, joy and laughter all rolled into one. Next Tuesday, you're invited to join us for a wonderful, delightful, prayerful few moments to help get you through the rest of your week. Call 605-313-5873 and listen for the prompt to enter 3108329#. You'll then be asked to state your name.

We'll be listening to hear your sweet voices as you join us. Come one and all!

Greenwood
United Methodist Church
10040 Greenwood Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060
Return Service Requested

Our Prayer Ministry

Prayer Call, Tuesdays at 8:00 am: Everyone is invited to join via conference call in prayer for our community and the world. Dial 605-313-5873, enter access code: 3108329#

Bulletin Prayer List: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, you may leave requests with the main office for the bulletin and/or with Pastor Crystal.

Joys And Concerns: During worship all are welcome to share challenges and celebrations for which they would like prayer.

In our prayers currently: Our Nation, The People and Missions of Greenwood, People in Harm's way at Home and Around the World, Those Affected by the California Wildfires, our Food Donation Connection Recipients, our Homebound Members, The May Family, Cheryl & Jack Lucke, Dale Coleman, Jean Tichreign, Adam & Beth Womack, David Roberson, James McFarland, Wanda Jean Baumgardner, Gladys McDonald, Michael Thomas, Kristen Coleman, Darrell Coleman, Tommy Harper, Juanita Sharpe, Cathy Ellis, Bodhi Loving, Brian Bushnell, Diane Lohr, Marianna Heath, Robert Lewelyn, Mike Walsh, Lathan Fulcher, Jayden Shuler, Angela Burtis, Karen Thomas, Roger Eckwright, John Johnston, Adamarye & Riley Partesson, Lacey Ryan, Arline Shater, Frances Lowery, Leah Martin and Family.