



The Twig Bender

October 2021



Our Nation

Our Church Families

GLC

Ashley Becnel

Aggie Dalton

Michelle Gibbs

Lacye Ryan

David and Carroll Shafer

Carolyn Smith

Frances Stalnaker

Michael Stapleton

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How Do You Pick a Church?

By Steve and Glenda Stalnaker

On a recent trip, Glenda saw a church across the street from our hotel and said to me: "If I was picking a church on looks alone, I'd take that one." That church building is nice looking from a distance. But what is it like inside? More to the point, what are the people of that church like?

It's a hackneyed cliché that the church is its people, not its buildings. Hackneyed, maybe, but still true. It only

makes sense to consider the people, the culture of a church and not the buildings. What should you look for? Have you found what you're looking for?

Having moved 22 times over our 50 years of married life, Glenda and I are sort of experts on moving our household. Without a doubt, the hardest part of moving has always been finding a new home church. When we moved to Richmond in 2004, we must have visited eight or nine United Methodist Churches before we found what we were looking for at Greenwood UMC.

Years ago, when we moved to Virginia Beach, we found a new home church at Salem UMC there. When we and several others joined, we were all gathered in the Fellowship Hall and asked by the preacher, each in turn, to explain why we chose to join Salem UMC.

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From the Pastor

Where is Everybody?

Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship. — John 4:23b-24a MSG

The Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church provided protocols for safe in-person return to worship services in the summer of 2020 and recently eased up on restrictions at the discretion of local pastors, following CDC recommendations for our specific communities.

So, where is everybody? Those who come to in-person services on Sundays, watch virtually or are a part of the sick and/or shut-in category have continued to support the church, join the prayer call on Tuesday mornings, participate in outreach, and/or have continued to give their tithes and offerings to support the ministry of the church. But not everyone who is a member of our church or listed in our directory fits into any of these categories. They are simply MIA – missing in action!



I know there are a few who are in high-risk COVID-19 categories. And there are folks who cannot take the vaccine. But there are those who have less than favorable reasons for their absence. Some of the things I have heard are: resting or doing something else on Sunday; angry about wearing masks inside and while singing; not happy with the new pastor; not happy with a member at the church; no youth ministry; or don't want to go to church. These are unacceptable excuses. But I recognize, the Spirit of God

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*Greenwood's October
Communion Offering Goes to
UMCOR*

Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair

A great Greenwood tradition returns this year at our **Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair** on Saturday, Oct. 30. This is Greenwood's primary mission fund-raiser; everyone needs to get involved.



As always, we'll have gallons and gallons (in quart containers) of Greenwood's world-famous Brunswick Stew. There will also be a silent auction and bake sale as well as other fun things.

And as always, Stew-master Harry Shuler needs volunteers to help prepare the stew ingredients, stir the stew as it's cooking and then pour it into the quart containers, distribute and sell.

Stew prep will start at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 29 in the Fellowship Hall. Check with Betty Ritchie at 804-266-5747 to see how you can help. You can also contribute by donating ingredients.

The stirring crew starts at 12:30 a.m. Saturday morning, as the stew cooks in Greenwood's refurbished, gas-fired stew pot. Cooling, filling the quart containers and sales begin at 9 a.m. Talk to Harry if you can help stir. In addition to volunteers, financial donations to help with the cost of ingredients would be welcome. Mark your checks "Brunswick Stew Ingredients," so we know it's a donation and not a payment for your own Brunswick Stew quarts.

Stew sales and the Fall Fair start at 10 a.m. on Saturday. You're welcome to order your stew in advance by calling the church office at 804-266-5341 or email us at [ad-](#)

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Greenwood's Women's Circles

The Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Ann Via, 3100 Stone Arbor Lane in Glen Allen. Anyone is welcome to come.

The Willing Workers will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. in the home of Mary Cullom. We'll be discussing preparations for the Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair's silent auction and bake sale.



Medicare Updates

Help With Medicare Costs

Courtesy of Medicare.gov

If you or someone you know is having trouble paying for healthcare costs, there may be ways to save money on Medicare premiums and other expenses.

Help may be available from the state to pay some Medicare costs, including monthly premiums. In some cases, [Medicare Savings Programs](#) may also help pay deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments if certain conditions are met.

Visit [Medicare.gov](#) to see if you qualify for a Medicare Savings Program. If you meet certain conditions, these Medicare Savings Programs may pay Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. Those conditions and instructions can be found at the "Medicare Savings Programs" link above.

The logo consists of a circular emblem with a stylized bird in flight, surrounded by the words "DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES" and "MEDICARE".

MEDICARE

HEALTH INSURANCE

2022 Medicare & You eHandbook

Check out the new 2022 *Medicare & You eHandbook*! The eHandbook is easy to search or download, so you can quickly find what you're looking for. You can download the book [here](#).

The Medicare eHandbook is available as a PDF, large print PDF, ebook or audiobook [here](#). Also available are paper book copies or paper copies in braille by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Medicare'Open Enrollment Runs Oct. 15 to Dec. 7

Cyber Security Part I

Cyber Scams and How to Avoid Them

Courtesy of McAfee Anti-Virus Software

When it comes to online scams, a little knowledge can save you a world of trouble. This month the *Twig Bender* opens a multi-part series on cyber scams. We'll address communications, chat, web, computer, email, online and senior citizen scams. Read on to learn about the most common types of scams, how to spot them, and how to avoid falling prey to them.

This month, we'll look at Communication – usually telephone – Scams.

Phone scams come in many forms. Some scammers act friendly while others try and use intimidation. In all cases, the scammer's goal is to get personal information and money.



Common phone scams:

- **Tech help:** You receive a call offering tech help for a problem you weren't aware of. This scam often targets senior citizens.
- **Credit repair:** Give them some money and they promise to "fix" or "remove" your debt.
- **Charities:** Scammers prey on victim's generosity or sensitivities to get money for dubious or nonexistent charities.
- **Extended car warranties:** They access public purchase records to try and sell you overpriced or worthless car warranties.

How to protect yourself:

- **Hang up** — or just don't answer if you don't recognize the number.
- **Don't let them know they reached a responsive phone number.** Pressing buttons to "be removed from our list," or trying to talk to an operator, may invite even more robocalls.
- **Don't rely on caller ID** to identify scammers. Phone scammers have gotten better at making you think it is a legitimate number by "spoofing" an ID and displaying

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Remove those Stains!

From Consumer Reports On-Line

Life sure can get messy. One moment you're enjoying a hot dog with mustard, then a splatter of the yellow stuff lands on your shirt. Or you're sipping a Merlot and a party-crashing dog bumps into you, splashing red wine on your white pants. *Consumer Reports'* laundry experts provide some of our advice that may seem weird, but involves solid science.



The best course of action is to always remove as much of the mess as soon as possible—scrape or blot it off—without rubbing or spreading. If you're unsure of what to use for cleaning, try liquid dish detergent mixed with water. It's a safe choice. Use a damp white cloth with a little soapy water and blot an inconspicuous spot first, then watch for any color change or damage. If none, clean away.

Yellow Mustard: Curcumin not only lends mustard its yellow color but also makes a mustard stain hard to remove from fabric. To deal with a mustard stain, scrape off the condiment without spreading. Mix one teaspoon of liquid dish detergent in one cup of warm water, work into fabric, rinse well and hang the clothing item in the sun. (Curcumin is very sensitive to sunlight—nature's bleaching agent.) This method works on almost anything that can be left in the sun for a few hours, including rugs and upholstery.

Red Wine: Forget that advice about using white wine or a clear sugary soda to remove red wine stains. Those may work initially, but over time you wind up with a permanent brown stain. Instead, wet and blot the fabric immediately. Hand-wash in two cups of warm water mixed with two teaspoons of liquid dish detergent. While the fabric is wet, liberally apply three percent hydrogen peroxide to the garment and then lay it in the sun for several hours to bleach naturally.

Chewing Gum: You can't wash out gum and freezing, then scraping, the garment can damage the fabric. Extra-strength Bengay® is what you need. This analgesic rub

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Where is Everybody?

(Continued from page 2)

must convict us and we all have to make our own choices. We can't make anyone do anything they really don't want to do. And quite frankly, God doesn't want us to either. **God loves a cheerful giver**—time, money, talent, fellowship, love, and worship

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writes in *The Cost of Discipleship*:

The community of the saints is not an “ideal” community consisting of perfect and sinless men and women, where there is no need of further repentance. No, it is a community which proves that it is worthy of the gospel of forgiveness by constantly and sincerely proclaiming God's forgiveness ... Sanctification means driving out the world from the Church as well as separating the Church from the world. But the purpose of such discipline is not to establish a community of the perfect, but a community consisting of men [women, girls and boys] who really live under the forgiving mercy of God.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as pastor to Greenwood and Laurel Park. We come together to worship God because of who God is—Father, Mother, Friend, Lover of our souls, Creator—God is everything!

We understand **we are all works in progress**, and we are grateful for God's unending forgiveness. We are chosen to be a part of the body of Christ—striving every day to be molded into his image. We are not perfect. We pray constantly for our witness, for one another, for the community and for the world.

We are facing challenges. We are few in numbers and many are up in age. But we trust God to place in our paths folks we can show kindness and compassion and love and be available to disciple others for Christ. And we are trusting and believing God for the return of individuals, families and friends who are a part of the Greenwood-Laurel Park UMC Charge.

You are missed. You matter. You are loved.

Peace and blessing to all,

— Pastor Josette Franklin



Food Donation Connection

Thanks to everyone for picking up the food. We are serving anywhere from five to 15 people on Fridays. Then we have an individual who picks up what's left on Tuesday morning and takes it to another food pantry, so nothing is wasted.

October Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, Sep. 29: Charley Banks; Thursday, Sep. 30: Susan Johnston; Friday, Oct. 1: Adamarye Patteson.

Wednesday, Oct. 6: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Oct. 7: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Oct. 8: Adamarye Patteson.

Wednesday, Oct. 13: Charley Banks; Thursday, Oct. 14: Susan Johnston; Friday, Oct. 15: Adamarye Patteson.

Wednesday, Oct. 20: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Oct. 21: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Oct. 22: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Oct. 27: Charley Banks; Thursday, Oct. 28: Susan Johnston; Friday, Oct. 29: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Nov. 3: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Nov. 4: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Nov. 5: Josette Franklin.



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

Avoiding Cyber Scams

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some type of official name. Some victims have even reported their caller ID shows their own number calling them.



- Your phone carrier may provide a service to **block known phone spam** numbers or at least ID them for you when your phone rings.
- Use call blocking.
- File a complaint through the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC³): Click [here](#) to file a complaint online. Complaint filings will be routed directly to the correct law enforcement agency.

Greenwood Charge Conference

Greenwood's 2021 Charge Conference is set for Wednesday, Oct. 27, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., at Lakeside UMC, 2333 Hilliard Road in Richmond. The Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge is grouped with 9-10 other churches in Cluster Six.



Be Prepared – Read the Scriptures

October Lectionary Readings

Oct. 3	Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
Oct. 10	Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
Oct. 17	Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
Oct. 24	Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52
Oct. 31	Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

How Do You Pick a Church?

(Continued from page 1)

This was a first for Glenda and me; never before had we been asked why we decided to join a particular church. **Was this an entrance exam?** The pastor seemed a bit [pleasantly] surprised with our response. We told him we wanted a church that venerates God Almighty as the holy, omnipotent, omniscient creator of Heaven and Earth who nevertheless loves each of us individually. We were seeking a church that lifts up Jesus the Christ as the Son of God, the resurrected Savior of mankind, a church that teaches the Bible as the Word of God. And, we were looking for a church that wasn't too big. We'd both been raised in huge (1000+ members) Methodist Churches, and we wanted something smaller. Salem UMC fit that bill and we enjoyed worshiping there for many years until we were transferred to Knoxville, Tennessee.



OK, enough about *our* criteria for choosing a church. **What's your criteria? How do you pick a church?** Do you attend your church because your parents did? That's certainly OK, but does the church where you worship meet your spiritual needs? Do you know what your spiritual needs are?

Here's where keeping yourself in the **company of Christians** comes in. Attending worship services, joining a Sunday school or other small group, and participating in your church's outreach missions all help you figure out what your spiritual needs are. All these facilitate your learning about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and help you work out what you need in a church.

Our **recommendation:** look for a church that **believes in God Almighty**, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, in **Jesus Christ** His only Son, our resurrected Redeemer, in the **Holy Spirit**, and in the **Bible as the Word of God**. Look for a church that works to carry out Jesus' Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations..." (*Matthew 28:19*). Look for a church that's small enough that you don't get lost, but big enough to carry out God's Will. You'll find a church that meets these criteria **right here at Greenwood**.

See you in church.

Greenwood Learning Center

Thanks to all of the individuals who are volunteering at the Greenwood Learning Center. Right now, we have three children enrolled with a possible new child starting soon.

Without the volunteers we would not be able to keep open. We feel like this is such an important ministry, serving the children in our neighborhood, we would like to be able to continue. If you would like to volunteer call Adamarye at 804 -266-6364. The hours are 2 to 5:30 p.m.



Greenwood Stewardship

Despite COVID quarantines and restricted gatherings, Greenwood's expenses still must be paid. Giving is down from last year. We need \$2,424 per week to meet expenses. In September, our weekly giving average was \$1,304 or 54% of what's required.



Ten Digit Dialing Starts this Month

Don't forget that on Sunday, Oct. 24, we will be required to dial all ten digits of a phone number, even here within our local 804 area code. See the article in [last month's Twig Bender](#).

Stain Removal Tips

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contains methyl salicylate, which dissolves the gum base. Heat the gum with a hair dryer, scrape off as much as possible with a plastic knife, work in a dab of Bengay, then use a zip-top plastic bag to pick off the resulting goo that's chemically more attracted to the plastic than to a paper towel.

Brunswick Stew Sale

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min@gumcva.org no later than Friday, Oct. 29. Like so much else these days, the cost of stew ingredients has gone up significantly. So, we've had to raise the stew cost to **\$9 per quart**.

Attrition has impacted stew preparation and cooking; a couple of our regulars won't be available, so we need an **All Hands effort**.

Besides the stew, we'll have a silent auction with a quilt, original artwork by Edith Schermerhorn, gift cards, certificates and more. If you have anything you'd like to donate, talk to Glenda Stalnaker at 804-755-6767 or [email](#) the church office.

The Willing Workers Circle is again sponsoring a bake sale, and everyone is invited to cook their favorite confection for the Fall Fair. Bring your cordon blue masterpieces to the church Fellowship Hall no later than 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30. Please attach a note with what it is and how much you'd like it to sell for. The Willing Workers also need some volunteers to help oversee the bake sale and take in the proceeds. Call Gay Stapleton at 804-672-8408 or Mary Cullom at 804-393-0737 to see how you can help.

We are contemplating a yard sale for large items like tools, beekeeping equipment, bicycles and so forth. But this depends on the church receiving enough donated sale items, and enough church members stepping up to supervise the sale. Watch the *Greenwood Grapevine* for updates on this.

Finally, there are opportunities for individual vendor tables. So, if you have some artwork, crafts, moonshine or whatever you'd like to sell at our Fall Fair, contact Gay or Mary to reserve your spot. There will be a charge for any tables.

As we said, the Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair is Greenwood's big yearly fund raiser. Last year we cleared almost \$2,200 which went to support our missionary in Cambodia, Clara Biswas as well as helped fund local missions and church expenses.





Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Dean Pittman	10/4	David Shuler	10/20
Finnley Loving	10/4	Amy Yearly	10/21
David Stanley.....	10/6	Taylor Stapleton.....	10/22
John Butler	10/13	Kimberly Shuler.....	10/26
Carlos Rios	10/15	Charley Banks.....	10/31

Anniversaries

Jim & Lorrie Bowie	10/18
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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.



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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

Lay Leader:

Lewis Daniel

Phone:

804-238-9318

Jackie Schultz

Email:

josettefranklin@vaumc.org

Acting Music Director:

Steve Stalnaker

Office hours: 9 a.m. — 1 p.m. Tuesday — Friday

Twig Bender editor:

www.gumcva.org

Fax:

804-266-2019

Web site:

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Education Building Phone:

804-266-6668



Greenwood United Methodist Church

October 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH AND ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH					1 6 p.m. Food Distribution	2 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast
3 World Communion Sunday 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	4 Nat'l Golf Day 	5 World Teacher's Day 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle	6 Mad Hatter Day 	7 Int'l Walk to School Day 	8 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	9 Fire Prevention Day
10 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	11 Columbus Day 	12 8 a.m. Prayer Call 6 p.m. Finance Committee 	13 U.S. Navy Birthday 	14 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers 	15 Medicare Open Enrollment Begins 6 p.m. Food Distribution	16 9 a.m. Laurel Park UMC Brunswick Stew Sale
17 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship Noon: "Short" Admin Council Meeting	18 Nat'l Meatloaf Appreciation Day 	19 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	20 Int'l Chefs Day 	21 Int'l Nacho Day 	22 Twig Bender Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	23 Make a Difference Day
24 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual 31 Halloween 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual	25 World Pasta Day 	26 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	27 Navy Day 7 p.m. Charge Conf. 	28 Nat'l Chocolate Day 	29 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	30 10 a.m. Brunswick Stew Sale & Fall Fair

Friendship Quilters

Mark Your Calendars

Nov. 1.....	All Saints Day
Nov. 2.....	Election Day
Nov. 7.....	Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov. 25.....	Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 28.....	First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 24.....	Christmas Eve
Dec. 25.....	Christmas Day
Jan. 1	New Year's Day



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

