

The Church Reminder

Greenville Cumberland Presbyterian Church



January 19, 2023

No. 3

THROW IT AWAY!

I must admit to being an inveterate packrat. In our home I've saved everything from empty prescription containers, to old eyeglasses and everything in between. In my workshop it is even worse. When I replace a worn out car part I save all the screws. When I finish a wood working project I have to save all the little scraps left over. The bulk of Judy's inquiries are, "Do you want to keep this?" I don't know why she asks. My answer is always the same, "Yes, I may need it some day." Now that might be an acceptable habit if you spend a lifetime in one place in a big old house, but we haven't. Ministers move and there is no telling how much churches have spent over the years moving my prized junk.

Awhile back Becky Booker told us about a little obscure used bookstore in White Pine that will buy your old books and credit the proceeds to the purchase of new used books. When I took my selection to the check-out counter the clerk added it up and I still had a credit of \$2.00. I went back to the stacks and chose a \$2.50 nondescript little paperback that set me on a path toward a new life of freedom from stress and anxiety. I'm not there yet but Gail Blanke's, **Throw Out FIFTY Things, Clear the Clutter, Find Your Life** is leading me to unbelievable activity. Nowadays instead of picking up discarded furniture people have set out on the street for trash pickup, I'm setting it back out in compact piles of dimensioned lumber. I've taken a pickup load of rare exotic woods to the Ginkgo Gallery up the street from our church where the blind owner George Wertzel creates beautiful pieces of art. I get a tremendous high out of that. I've also discovered that uncluttering is an amazing therapy that costs me nothing.

You know what? Churches are notorious packrats also. Not long after we arrived here Terry Greene and sisters Cindy and Tammy (aka The Greene Machine) called a workday on a Saturday and enlisted a surprising number of volunteers to clean out years of clutter stored in every nook and corner of the church from classrooms to the organ chamber. What a mess it was, but when it was over there was finally a place to store current and relevant items. Afterwards we all sat down to lunch and fellowship and shared the deep satisfaction from what we had accomplished.

Now as we await with deep anticipation the arrival of an interim minister and then a settled pastor there is another kind of church clutter we need to take seriously. I'm talking about habits formed over the years, doing things the same old way. There is a lot of comfort in following entrenched habits. But enjoying comfort often dims our initiative and clouds our outlook. New leadership brings fresh ideas and new perspectives. Any minister who has moved through the ranks will tell you that the common congregational response to new leadership and fresh ideas is "We've never done it that way before." Some wise pundit once dubbed it as "The seven last words of a dying church." So in this time of transition how about we look for clutter in the way we think and do. Don't be afraid to ask if our efforts are paying fruitful dividends of results. Do our methods fit the needs and affirm the aspirations of those we seek to reach for Christ? Let's look for the cognitive clutter and when we find it let us be willing for God's sake to **Throw It Away!**

Souls be well,
Dan Freeman

Gifts for Kids expresses SINCERE APPRECIATION for the recent donation and continued monetary support for the outreach that Gifts for Kids has provided to Greene County children for over 35 years. Volunteers and citizens' sharing of time, talents and monetary donations enables us to continue to expand the mission that began by providing toys to financially challenged families with children. The GFK's mission/outreach is now expanded to providing warm apparel for all ages, school-appropriate jeans, pjs, assistance to both City and County school resource departments challenged to provide snacks, water, toiletries, health and hygiene items and inspirational literature/books! You are invited to be a part by sharing your time, talents and continued monetary support.

Thank you,
GFK Board and Volunteers



1st Week: Willetta Blakeburn - COVID

2nd Week: Eloise Emory - COVID

3rd Week: Walt Smith recovering at home; Tod Duncan shoulder surgery, recovering at home

Serving Sunday, Jan. 22

Ushers: John McInturff, Bill Gott, Tim Teague, Andrea Daniels, Bob Zimmerman, Tanya Kuykendall, Kevin Keaton

Acolyte: Gerald Miller

SANCTUARY FLOWERS SIGN UP



The following dates are available:

January 22 and 29

Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26

Please select your flower date no later than noon on the Wednesday before they will be on the altar.

To reserve your date contact
Dianne Gass at 552-5269 or email:
wtgass@comcast.net

LADIES LUNCHEON

Circle 1 will have their annual luncheon in the fellowship hall on Sunday, January 22 at 11:30 a.m. All women at the GCPC church are welcome!

BOOK CLUB

Join us next month on Wednesday, February 8, at 2 p.m. for the novel, *Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks.

This is a heart wrenching love story... leaving you teary-eyed with the meaning of unconditional love.

EYEGLOSS COLLECTION

Have you noticed the white collection box in the hallway for used eyeglasses? As a member of the Lions Club, I collect eyeglasses from seven locations in Greeneville, which includes all optical businesses and the YMCA. During 2022, we sorted 2221 eyeglasses for reuse by people around the world. Eyeglasses that are not usable are recycled for the content materials. The money received from recycling goes to support numerous Lions vision assistance efforts. Cases in good condition are used by area Lions vision clinics when people receive new glasses. We have also found we can turn loose lenses into jewelry and other items to sell. These proceeds go towards fighting childhood cancer, another cause that Lions support.

As you can see, this reuse/recycle program has far-reaching effects. It is just one way to "Serve with Kindness". Vision assistance is a personal mission of mine. What's yours?

Nancy Southerland

HOUSEHOLD GOODS COLLECTION

The Missions and Outreach Committee's non-food donation for January is TOILET PAPER. We encourage you to give as you feel led. Any donations will be tended to and gotten to an appropriate distribution site.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

To make it easier on the church office, music leaders, worship committee, and children's sermon volunteers, Dan D. and Dan B. will provide the upcoming list of scripture lessons and sermon topics so an updated rolling 4-week list can be given in the newsletter each week.

Jan. 22 – Dan D. – Matthew 4:12-23 – Call of the Disciples
"Nearness of the Kingdom"

Jan. 29 – David – Micah 6:1-8 What God Requires, "God's People on Trial"

Feb. 5 – David – 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 – God's Wisdom & Power; "Wise Power"

Feb. 12 – Dan – Matthew 4:1-11 "Into the Wilderness"

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

The children's Sunday School class will not be meeting in the month of January. Please contact Crystal Johnson if you have any questions. You may contact the church office at 638-4119 if you would like to teach the children's Sunday School class.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

20	Rob Rhea III
21	Mary Stott
22	Tony Valk
24	Allen Jones
25	Glen Richardson, Angie Taylor, MacCormack Cutshall
26	Bryan Kelton
27	Doug McKee
30	Joyce Moore

LOST AND FOUND

We have a keychain that has been turned in to the church office. It is black and white with the initial "T" on it and has two keys. Please let us know if this belongs to you.

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1/19/2023 NO. 3

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The Greeneville Cumberland
Presbyterian Church Is Incorporated.