



# Greensboro Gleanings

November 2017

From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

I am deeply grateful for the two years we have spent together and the hard work you have done on the "interim tasks." The congregation's leadership, in particular, has engaged fully with the work of exploring who you are now and who God might be calling you to become. The last stage of the interim process is called "commitment to new directions in ministry." Philip G. Porcher, in a book on interim ministry titled *Temporary Shepherds*, speaks of how this last stage of a congregation's transition process really begins after the interim pastor has departed: In the first six to twelve months of a new ministry, the congregation and new pastor usually go through a relationship phase commonly referred to as a honeymoon. Then they settle into reality and begin to face the changes and challenges of growing together. This is when the congregation and pastor become truly "engaged." Your task will be to engage with your new pastor in a ministerial partnership that honors what is wonderful about Greensboro United Church of Christ, as it is now, while staying open to all the possibilities of what it might become in the future.

In the meantime, our joint task is to say goodbye. Being your interim minister has been an extraordinary blessing, and I know that I will not be able to take my leave without at least a few tears. I've been asked if I can continue to be a part of the community, and I have replied that I need to stay away for year, although, after that, I'd love to be able to worship with you when I have a free Sunday. Once my pastorate ends, I will not engage with anyone in the GUCC community in a pastoral way. If you are ill or grieving, you will certainly have my prayers, but not my presence, phone calls or emails. These rules may seem harsh, but they have arisen out of experience. When a congregation doesn't let go of a former pastor, and a pastor doesn't let go of a former congregation, it can be very difficult for the congregation and the new pastor to, as Porcher put it, become truly "engaged."

I pray that God will bless you, and bless you richly, as you enter into the next phase of this great and wonderful undertaking of being the Body of Christ in the world today.

*Rona*

## THANK YOU



### November Ushers and Greeters

- Nov. 5 — Eleanor Guare & Paula Harman
- Nov. 12 — Ken Johnston & Anne Stevens
- Nov. 19 — Clive Gray & Nancy Hill
- Nov. 26 — Cilla Bonney-Smith & John Rohnert



### November Coffee Hour Hosts

- Nov. 5 — Sherral Lumsden
- Nov. 12 — Shelly Jungwirth
- Nov. 19 — Mike & Susan Coffey
- Nov. 26 — Cilla Bonney-Smith

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# November 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Sundays</b> 8:30am <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 10:00am <b>Worship Service</b>	10-11am Mondays & Wednesdays <b>Growing Stronger</b> Fellowship Hall	Tuesdays 12pm <b>Global Campus</b> 4:00pm <b>Pilates</b>	<b>1</b> 4:00pm <b>Deacons</b> 4:30pm <b>Mission Board</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS. SET CLOCKS BACK</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 4:30pm <b>Meditation</b> Pastor's Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>VETERANS DAY</b>	<b>11</b> Original Veterans Day
<b>12</b> <b>Rona's last Day to preach</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>SERRV SET UP</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 <b>SERRV SALE</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Ed Sunday-Winters</b> preaching	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30pm <b>Church Board</b>	<b>23</b> <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

## ***A NEW PASTOR AT GUCC!***

The Search Committee is anxiously waiting, along with the rest of you, for our new settled pastor to arrive in Greensboro. After a successful candidate weekend complete with a reception and question and answer time on Saturday and worship on Sunday, the church selected Ed Sunday-Winters to serve as our new settled pastor. We believe you made a great choice. Ed will begin his work here on Monday, November 13th and conduct worship for the first time on Sunday, November 19th.

Ed has a goal to meet with as many of us as possible in the first six weeks of his ministry. Toward that end, he has requested that we arrange to have small gatherings in people's homes during the first two weeks of December. Each meeting would have 5-7 people, including the host. Ed estimates that these meetings would last 1-1 ½ hours. Food is not necessary – this is about conversation, not food. These gatherings would be either in the afternoons or evenings on December 4-7 and

December 11-14. If you are willing to host a gathering, please contact Susan Coffey or Shelly Jungwirth. There will be a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall for everyone to sign up to attend one of these gatherings. We encourage all to attend and get to know Ed and allow him to get to know you!

These next few months will be quite a transition for Ed and his wife Patti since they have never experienced a Northern winter which brings with it, snow tires, heavy coats and boots, long underwear, deep snow, and early darkness but they are looking forward to the adventure.

The Search Committee would like to thank everyone for their patience during this search process and those who helped facilitate the weekend with Ed and Patti.

*Your Pastoral Search Committee,*

***Susan Coffey, John Hewett, Nancy Hill, Shelly Jungwirth, Jeff Pierpont, Jan Travers, and Roger Waible***

## ***FROM THE CHURCH BOARD — TRANSITIONS***

There is a new day ahead of us.

Ed will be beginning his work with us in just a couple of weeks and we are very fortunate to have him. The Church Board is convinced that there is a bright future ahead for the Greensboro church.

As the seasons change from fall to winter, as we move from an interim minister to a settled pastor, as we wind down 2017 and look to next year, It's important to remember that we are always "in process"... Whether we like it or not, change is happening all around us.

The world is changing, people are changing, the way people interact with each other is changing, why, even the town of Greensboro is changing.

We have to guard against being a "church of the Church," like a service organization or social club just for "us." We need to be a church of Christ.

- How do we find new ways of engaging the community of Greensboro?
- How do we engage those that check "None" when asked about religious affiliation?
- How do we best influence our community for good and address real needs?
- How do we avoid being perceived as a church for just the few and not everyone?

These are all good questions for us to not only think about, but to act on.

But as we press onward we also need to be mindful that we, this church, are Christ incarnate.

*May Christ dwell in our hearts. May we be rooted and established in love. May we have power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, so that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

***Jeff Pierpont, Church Board Moderator***

## ***FROM THE MISSION BOARD***

The Annual Fall SERRV Sale will be taking place in Fellowship Hall at the Greensboro United Church of Christ on Saturday, November 18, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is an annual showing of high-quality products from skilled local and developing-world artisans. There will be a luncheon available. Please join us for a day of crafts, food, and fellowship to begin the holiday season.

Thank you to all who donated items for our summer mission projects. We put together a total of 20 CWS School kits and 5 dictionaries for the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program.

***Cathy Pollard, Chair***

### ***GUCC MISSION STATEMENT***

*Our mission is to love as Jesus loved, caring for others and joyfully serving God, our community, and the world.*

***Happy NOVEMBER Birthday to:*** Halley Greaves, Linda Hall, John Hewett, Merrill and Tom Hurst, Marcy Travers Larrabee, Wanda Niemi, and Etta Peabody.

NEWS FROM  
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION  
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### *Upcoming Lectionary Readings*

- Nov. 5** ~Joshua 3:7-17 • Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 OR ~Micah 3:5-12 • Psalm 43 ~1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 ~Matthew 23:1-12
- Nov. 12** ~Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 • Psalm 78:1-7 OR Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24 ~ Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or Psalm 70 ~1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ~Matthew 25:1-13
- Nov. 19** ~Judges 4:1-7 • ~Psalm 123 OR Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 • Psalm 90:1-8(9-11), 12 ~1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 ~Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov. 26** ~Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 • Psalm 100 OR Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 • Psalm 95:1-7a ~Ephesians 1:15-23 ~Matthew 25:31-46

### *STEWARDSHIP: DID YOU KNOW?*

One way you can ensure that the Greensboro church continues to be an important presence in this community for generations to come is to remember the church in your will and estate plans. Although not a substitute for pledged giving each year, bequests are an important part of the financial health and future stability of the church. An unrestricted bequest allows the Board of Trustees to discern the best use of the funds at the time they are received. Restricted bequests are also welcomed when they are consistent with the goals, purpose, and mission of the church and do not generate more cost than benefit to administer. For questions regarding bequests, see Susan Coffey or Andy Dales.

### *THE MUSIC CORNER*

November is shaping up to be an exciting time here at GUCC. with our new minister beginning this month coupled with Thanksgiving and the beginning of the Holidays, we are delighted to continue our mission of *Serving God Through Music*.

**5th**—Bronwyn will be leading the music this Sunday as I am on vacation. She has chosen the lovely anthem *Communion Song* by American composer Colin Curtis. This expressive, calming piece has text that reminds us “when we eat this bread, when we drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus.” You will hear beautiful harmonies and a slight upward shift in the singing to musically remind us to lift up our attention to Christ.

### *THE MUSIC CORNER CONT'D*

**12th**— Bronwyn continues leading the music and the choir with the very lively anthem *Clap Your Hands* by prodigious choral composer L. Stanley Glarum (1908-1976). This bright, enthusiastic anthem includes the text based on *Psalm XLVII* and is a wonderful example of the composer’s values.

**19th**— Missouri native Mary Lynn Lightfoot has published over 260 choral compositions, and this Thanksgiving Sunday we bring you her *On This Day of Celebration*. This anthem incorporates the tune *Now Thank We All Our God (Nun Danket Alle Gott)* with contemporary accompaniment and harmonies with the fervor of offering great thanks to God with thankful hearts and joyful voices.

**26th**— J. Christopher Marks (1863-1946) was born in Cork, Ireland and came to Pittsburgh, PA in 1902. He held high-level church music positions and spent most of his career in NYC. Following in his father’s footsteps he began composing and in 1934 wrote the anthem *I will give thanks*. Based on *Psalm 138:1*, this slow, lush anthem is written in the “block harmony” style (think hymn-like) and leads to an exciting fugue for all voices concluding with a glorious hallelujah proclamation.

**Hal Parker**  
*Music Director*

