



Greensboro Gleanings

February 2018

From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends!

In just a few days, we will observe Ash Wednesday and begin the season of Lent. Lent is a time of introspection and assessment. It is time to evaluate the interior and evaluate our spiritual journey, inside and out. How is our connection to God? Has it grown more intimate in the last year? How has that connection impacted the way we interact with the world around us? Does it inform how we use our time and resources? Why or Why not?

While asking ourselves these kinds of questions can be good for our spiritual growth as individuals, we can also benefit from a similar inquiry as a congregation. We are blessed to have adopted a concise strategic plan at last summer's annual meeting. The plan has three goals, First, "Make a real difference in the lives of our members and the wider community." Second, "Work for social justice." Third, "Demonstrate fellowship and love for one another." These goals are easily turned into questions that help us evaluate how well we are doing what it is that we have said we want to do.

As we have begun this new year, each of the leadership teams — Deacons, Trustees, Missions, and Church Board — are making sure that they have at least one project on their agenda that helps us achieve one of our strategic plan goals. We have set some good and important goals for our congregation. Meeting these goals requires diligence. I am grateful for church leaders who have planned the work well and who are working on the plan.

There is a copy of our strategic plan in this issue of "Gleanings." Review it and find your place in it. God is still speaking and working at Greensboro United Church of Christ.

*Joy and Peace,
Ed*

GUCC MISSION STATEMENT

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

THANK YOU



*February
Ushers and Greeters*

- Feb. 4 — Shelly Jungwirth & John Howard
- Feb. 11 — Jeff & Chris Pierpont
- Feb. 18 — Judy Dunnan & Ken Johnston
- Feb. 25 — Alden & Patty Launer



*February
Coffee Hour Hosts*

- Feb. 4 — Jeff & Chris Pierpont
- Feb. 11 — Ken & Janney Johnston
- Feb. 18 — Roger & Judy Waible
- Feb. 25 — Shelly Jungwirth

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February 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sundays 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship Service	Mondays & Wednesdays Growing Stronger Fellowship Hall	Tuesdays 12pm Global Campus Fellowship Hall		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 3:00pm WonderArts Teen Chorus Fellowship Hall	13 5:00pm-7:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fellowship Hall	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	15	16 5:00pm Library Chili Dinner Fellowship Hall	17
18 4:00-6:00pm Book Study Fellowship Hall	19 3:00pm WonderArts Teen Chorus Fellowship Hall	20 4:00pm Deacons Church Library	21 4:30pm Pleasants Fund Church Library	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 6:30pm Church Board Church Library		Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00pm Pilates Fellowship Hall	

**Greensboro United Church of Christ
2018-2019 Strategic Plan
(Adopted at the 2017 Annual Meeting)**

The Church Board of the Greensboro United Church of Christ is pleased to present this proposed 2018-2019 Strategic Plan. The plan outlines the direction we would like to pursue over the next two years, recognizing that the church is in a time of transition as we seek to welcome a new Pastor into our midst. The plan identifies three high level goals and associated objectives designed to help us achieve our mission. Without prescribing specific activities, the document identifies the strategies we intend to employ in pursuit of our goals, as well as the long-term outcomes we expect. At the end of each year, we will review what we have done in pursuit of our goals and provide a progress report on our achievements.

This plan represents a deliberative process based on surveys, small group meetings and congregation-wide conversations.

If there are terms you feel need clarification, you may find them defined in the Attachment appended to the plan.

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

Goal 1: Make a real difference in the lives of our members and the wider community.

We understand that our church makes a difference in the lives of our members through our worship services, the musical expression of our faith, the development of our spiritual literacy and practice, and community service that helps those in need. We recognize that we are part of a wider community whose needs are our concern. We are committed to developing a comprehensive communications strategy to publicize our church's mission and programs.

Outcome: Being a part of our congregation enriches and transforms the lives of our members and provides opportunities for outreach to the wider community.

Measurement: Stories from members about how GUCC makes a difference in their lives and feedback on our initiatives in the community.

Objective 1.1: Provide a worship experience that is refreshing, inspiring, thought-provoking, and welcom-

ing to all.

Strategy 1.1.1: Promote a worship culture that honors our Christian tradition while encouraging the critical, questioning study of scripture and our beliefs.

Strategy 1.1.2: Extend a warm and inclusive welcome to all who join us in worship.

Objective 1.2: Sustain the excellence of our music program.

Strategy 1.2.1: Explore the occasional use of music from other genres in our worship services.

Objective 1.3: Provide opportunities to increase understanding of the faith tradition in which we stand.

Strategy 1.3.1: Continue to create and enhance opportunities for study, discussion and non-judgmental, supportive sharing of our faith journeys.

Objective 1.4: Provide opportunities for service in the Greensboro and surrounding communities.

Strategy 1.4.1: Continue to support and expand our volunteer program in the Lakeview school.

Strategy 1.4.2: Honor and provide information about the many ways in which members serve in our communities.

Strategy 1.4.3: Continue to reflect on our mission statement in identifying and prioritizing our congregation's outreach initiatives.

Objective 1.5: Communicate our mission as a congregation by making the community aware of the variety and richness of our programs and offerings.

Strategy 1.5.1: Continue to improve and expand our efforts to inform the community of who we are and what we are doing.

Goal 2: Work for social justice.

We understand that the God shown to us in scripture cares deeply about justice and that this concern is most fully expressed in the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. Seeking *to love as Jesus loves* and to *care for others* includes addressing the causes, as well as the results, of poverty and oppression. We seek to

strengthen our witness for justice, to educate our members about justice issues, and to empower each other to take action on those issues that concern us individually.

Outcome: Church members are aware of social justice issues and are empowered to work for justice both as a congregation and as individuals.

Measurement: An ongoing record of justice issues addressed and actions taken by the church. Stories from members of actions taken in response to awareness gained in church.

Objective 2.1: Provide information and education on justice issues, including problems in our own community, and on the theological basis of our concern.

Strategy 2.1.1: Encourage the inclusion of justice issues in our worship services.

Strategy 2.1.2: Explore other avenues for helping members to become aware of justice issues.

Objective 2.2: Provide opportunities to work for justice, both as a congregation and as individuals.

Strategy 2.2.1: Promote corporate action on issues that concern us as a congregation.

Strategy 2.2.2: Provide information about opportunities available to those who wish to work for justice individually, or as part of a wider movement.

Goal 3: Demonstrate fellowship and love for one another.

We recognize that mutual support for one another depends upon cohesiveness between and among people but that this cohesiveness does not just happen. The ability to better support one another comes from knowing each other more fully. Cohesiveness results from sharing meals, laughing, singing, playing and praying together beyond what occurs on Sundays. We seek to determine the capacity of our congregants to contribute their energy to the work of the church and recognize the need to nurture those in leadership roles, including our Pastor.

Outcome: The congregational culture fosters a sense of belonging and mutual care and empowers individuals to initiate activities that strengthen our congregational life.

Measurement: Stories of ways in which members of the congregation experience their sense of belonging and love for one another.

Objective 3.1: Increase opportunities to engage with each other as part of a caring and supportive community that is open to all.

Strategy 3.1.1: Identify the strengths and weaknesses of our congregation as a caring and supportive community.

Strategy 3.1.2: Create a church culture that enables individuals to feel empowered to initiate activities that will strengthen congregational life.

Objective 3.2: Strengthen effectiveness of volunteer recruitment in support of our church and its programs.

Strategy 3.2.1 Approach volunteer recruitment as an opportunity to let members share their particular gifts.

Attachment: Definitions

- Mission: A statement that defines why an organization exists (i.e., its purpose). Often also broadly identifies how, and for whom, the purpose will be achieved.
- Goal: A statement of what the organization seeks to achieve in order to meet its mission and vision, and to address key challenges. Goals should be aligned to the mission, appropriate to the organizational level, and results oriented.
- Objective: A statement that defines a discrete component of a goal. Objectives are still focused on what the organization seeks to achieve.
- Strategy: A broad statement of how the objectives and goals will be achieved. Strategies are implemented through discrete activities, tasks and projects. These lower level activities will be identified as part of our ongoing program planning.
- Outcome: Intended result or consequence of activities conducted in support of the plan.
- Measurement: How we will gauge performance.

NEWS FROM THE PLEASANTS FUND

In 1977, Greensboro summer resident, Frederick Pleasants, gave a bequest to the church allowing the GUCC to fund numerous projects important to our community. From time to time, Greensboro Gleanings will highlight a program recently supported by the Pleasants Fund.

In October 2017, the Pleasants Fund provided a grant to support a pilot program at Hardwick Elementary School, designed to teach writing to approximately 125 students this school year. Three Hardwick Elementary classroom teachers and the school's art teacher are collaborating in this project, which combines, art, story-telling, reading and writing to meet the needs of students with diverse learning styles. The program complements current literacy instruction and encourages deeper engagement for students through learning that includes visual, kinesthetic and verbal modes of thinking.

Two of the teachers leading the project, Sara Berhsing and Beth LeCours, recently reported that 25 students have published their first books. "Students shared their books in pairs and then read aloud their favorite page to the class. Thanks to the Pleasants Fund, students were provided with the materials needed to accomplish this miraculous event," stated Mrs. Berhsing. The Pleasants Fund grant provided funds for picture books to use as models, paints, paper, brushes, and crayons for the students.

The children are now working on writing and illustrating a winter-themed book, which will be published in color and bound for them to keep. "One student in second grade carries her book around with her every day. She is so proud of what she has accomplished," reported Mrs. Behrsing. The teachers expressed gratitude for the opportunity to pilot this program, and are hopeful that it will become part of the HES curriculum.

Mary Meyer
Chair, Pleasants Fund

MILESTONES

Happy FEBRUARY Birthday to: Kyle Behrsing, Sheila Carver, Keilah Figueroa, Brian Niemi, Colton Niemi, Nathaniel Hill, Gabriel Hill, Mia Feroletto, Anne McPherson, Katie Gilmartin, and Brian Gilmartin. And a **Happy Anniversary** to Nancy Hill and Clive Gray and Janice and Mike Leonard

Is your birthday listed this month when it shouldn't be? Have we missed you in our celebrations? Contact the church office and let us know if your birthday is listed incorrectly or has been missed.



THE MUSIC CORNER

Doctrine Of Affections

With the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day and my 8th anniversary of service here at GUCC, it seems the perfect time to highlight the "Doctrine of Affections" in music.

The Doctrine of Affections is the time in music history when the intersection of human emotions and music joined. During the Renaissance period of music (1400-1600) all voices and instruments had equal billing (think Monteverdi and Palestrina) with no consideration of evoking an emotional response in the listener. At the end of this period and beginning of the Baroque era, a group of composers and theorists embraced the idea that music could be capable of arousing a variety of emotions, one at a time, in the listener: sadness, joy, hate, love, tension, jealousy, peace, fury....

This was based on Plato and his power of words to elicit emotions (think MLK and the "I Have a Dream" speech) to move the human spirit.

The impact on the composition of music was stunning: Joy is elicited by large intervals and Major Key signatures, sadness elicited by small intervals and minor keys, fury elicited by dissonance and rough harmony. For the first time a single voice (instrument or human) would now float above accompaniment to express an emotion to the listener (think *Ave Maria*) for a richer musical experience.

With sacred music here in church, I am often reminded of what emotion our musical selections can elicit during a worship service. The next time you experience an emotion during one of our selections, be it voice, piano, choir, organ, harpsichord, recorders, gamba, you can thank the "Doctrine of Affections". It is a large part of our mission to continue our mission of *Serving God through music.*

Hal Parker
Music Director



STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

is a feature of the UCC which you may be interested in checking out. A link to the Daily Devotional is:

http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional_sign_up

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
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Upcoming Lectionary Readings

- Feb. 4** ~Isaiah 40:21-31 ~ Psalm 147:1-11, 20c ~1 Corinthians 9:16-23 ~Mark 1:29-39
- Feb. 11** ~2 Kings 2:1-12 ~Psalm 50:1-6 ~ 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 ~Mark 9:2-9
- Feb. 18** ~Genesis 9:8-17 ~Psalm 25:1-10 ~1 Peter 3:18-22 ~Mark 1:9-15
- Feb. 25** ~Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, ~Psalm 22:23-31 ~ Romans 4:13-25 ~Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

LOOKING AHEAD

The Greensboro United Church of Christ invites you to celebrate **PANCAKE DAY** with us on February 13th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There will be pancakes and sausage for everyone.

On February 14th, Ash Wednesday, we will enter Lent with a service of worship beginning at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

A Lenten-Winter Book Group begins on February 18th and continues six Sunday afternoons, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Discussion will focus on *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*, by William Barber and John Wilson-Hartgrove. Snacks provided. Open to all. More on this to come.

And..... The Follies, are coming! The Follies are coming! Look for more information to come. Save the tentative date of March 3 for **THE FOLLIES!!**