

Greenville Community Church

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From the Pastor's Desk

Love is patient; love is kind....

1 Corinthians 13:4

How can we love others when we suffer from a lack of love ourselves?

First, it is important to recognize that our lives are always better when we love. Love is a choice. We can love one another or we can ignore others or, worse yet, hate the world around us. People often talk about love as if it is a feeling. While it is true that love has much to do with our feelings, most of all love is a choice.

Next, we make progress in loving others by taking small steps. How can you love someone who hurt you? Try a small gesture. Say something encouraging. Send a kind email. Shake hands or embrace. Ask about something of mutual interest. Ill will melts away through love.

Each small step of love takes us down the right path. Small steps add up to a major distance. After we have taken many small steps of love, we can look back and see that we have completed a tremendous journey that previously seemed inaccessible.

And where does the journey take us? The journey of love takes us to the best that life has to offer. Among other things, it takes us to where we see God clearly, face to face. What more could we want in life?

Edward



A Fun Fair and Tag Sale was held on Saturday, June 12. Thank you to Janice Meyers for organizing the event, which was a large success. A substantial crowd attended and approximately \$2,000 net income was raised. Many “treasures” were transferred from one household to another and countless smiles were observed as people selected their purchases from the baked goods table.

A Consistory meeting will be held on Saturday, July 10, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the lounge.



A Blessing of the Animals will take place at Greenville Community Church on Sunday, July 11, at 2:00 p.m. Animals bring joy to our lives. They provide companionship, affection and so much more. Once again this year pet owners are invited to bring their dogs, cats, rabbits, turtles, and more to church for a special service. The service will take place in our church garden. We will sing “All Creatures of Our God and King.” And then a prayer will be said for each animal and guardian.

The next Book Club

event will be on July 13th at 7:30 p.m. The book of the month is *Abide with Me* by Elizabeth Strout. Anyone interested may contact the church office for more information.

Bible Study:

The next three-session Bible study will feature Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' words reveal a religion that is different from just doing good deeds. Participants will take a close look at Jesus' sayings on trusting God. The sessions will be held in the Lounge at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, July 21 – August 4. Absolutely anyone is welcome to attend!



Would you like more joy in your life?

Has busyness taken over? Are you stressed and easily irritated? A Retreat for Joy will be held on Sunday, July 25 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Pastor Edward will lead the retreat with an emphasis on silent prayer and contemplation. The retreat will begin in our church lounge and also make use of the sanctuary, church gardens and small rooms. There is no cost for the retreat. Everyone is invited.



Several Committee Meetings will be held on Sunday, July 27, at 11:15. Everyone is invited to attend a meeting, even for only one session in order to participate in the organizational life of the church. The meetings will be held in Hessler Hall.

The next Men's Breakfast

will be Saturday, July 31, at 9:00 a.m. The menu is simple (bagels and coffee...) but the friendship is outstanding! The speaker will be Noel Castro, who will tell about his life. This is an excellent way for guys to begin a Saturday!

Plan ahead to attend a Gospel Concert on September 26 at 4:30 p.m. The concert will feature the RCA Singers under the direction of Whitfield Coppin.

Facilities Committee: A "walk-through" of the church property has been done and a number of issues were addressed. We will be putting together a work list which hopefully can be accomplished with help from people in the congregation...stay tuned! We are also still seeking a volunteer to organize a clean-up at our cemetery (a very historical site!) on Old Army Road....if we don't accomplish this together, we will need to pay to have it done. Please help! Contact the church office.

Go Green for God!

“Go Green for God” is the name of our Summer Sunday program for kids here at Greenville Community Church. The fun program will help children learn about this wonderful earth God made and how to be good caretakers of it. The centerpiece for our learning will be planting, tending, and eating from our own children's garden! The garden already has a tasty crop of radishes, lettuce and herbs coming up. Soon there will be flowers to enjoy smelling and cutting, as well as delicious tomatoes, squash and cucumbers to eat.

Children are invited to begin the 10 a.m. worship service with their families, join for a special children's message from the pastor and then go together to our lower level for learning activities. Our activities will include Bible stories and songs, crafts, experiential learning opportunities, and fun games together.

We are dedicated to offering a children's program each week here at Greenville Church. To do this we do need your help. Please consider helping for one or more weeks! There will be a sign-up sheet at coffee hour by the children's coffee table or talk to the church office.