

## You See

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The Greensboro News & Record asked me for my hopes and dreams for Greensboro for 2009. Here is what I wrote and they published on New Year's Eve:

Here are nine dreams for Greensboro for 2009.

I dream that an interactive civil rights museum might become a reality in Greensboro.

I dream that some of the treasures of the Triad might become highly valued so that we would support these with our time and our money.  
To name a few:

- Greensboro Urban Ministry's highly effective empowerment of the poor;
- Habitat for Humanity's amazing home-building for the working poor;
- Bennett College's unique educational opportunities;
- The Natural Science Center, newly refurbished and bursting with curious kids and odd animals;
- Greensboro Youth Soccer, one of the top youth clubs in the nation;
- Reading Connections, the savvy group fighting to end illiteracy one person at a time;
- The local Boy Scout chapter, which is overcoming Nature Deficit Disorder in our young men.

I dream that black and white congregations might unite to end childhood hunger in Guilford.

I dream that 10 percent of Guilford residents would donate blood every six weeks at Nussbaum Red Cross Center.

I dream that Greensboro residents would demand of city planners many more and much safer bicycle lanes to crisscross the county.

I dream that in 2009 every church, temple and synagogue would have values-based sex education for all their youth and older children.

I have a dream that this next year we would value most highly those in our community who give so completely of themselves for so very little money, namely, teachers, police and firefighters.

I dream that every adult would discover a school (public or private) near him or her, and volunteer.

I dream that everyone over the age of 8 would read three books next year, whether the books have pictures in them or not.

I dream that every Triad resident would awaken to the natural beauty surrounding us, and fight for the preservation of the woods, trails, and lakes that make this area so lovely and livable.

Michael Usey

## Outrageous Outreach

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On Sunday, January 18th, we will provide a Talent/Variety Show for the residents of the Masonic Home in Greensboro. These folks will LOVE it! So, be practicing your juggling, tell a few jokes, play the violin, jump rope. . .whatever. The important thing is that these folks love having young children visit. It brightens their days. It is the very important gift of your time. It will be early afternoon, probably around 2-4, so let me know if you are interested. I want EVERYONE to come and show what makes all of you unique!

## Opinion: Loving God, Loveless Christians

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It's Christmastime, so it seems especially appropriate to begin with reminders of the amazing love of God to the world in Jesus Christ:

Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but would have everlasting life. John 3:16

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will someone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! I John 3:1

It's Christmastime, so it seems especially appropriate to continue with reminders of the Bible's demand that followers of Christ be characterized by godly love:

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:7-11

Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Matthew 22:36-40  
A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34-35

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have no love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

It's Christmastime, so it seems especially sad to be reminded of the hatefulness that Christians demonstrate toward those whose lifestyles they disapprove of, whose politics they reject, or whose doctrine or moral beliefs they believe erroneous:

Grieve for every Christian leader pushed out of his or her job because they did not quite hit the right notes for some fellow Christians in their church, school or organization, and for every Christian who somehow finds it in their heart to rejoice at the downfall of their perceived Christian enemies.

Grieve for homosexuals, so often the recipients of Christian rejection and hatred.

Grieve for every Christian who in 2008 was treated as some kind of pagan by other Christians because they supported Barack Obama, and every Christian treated as some kind of Neanderthal because they supported John McCain.

Grieve for a Christian community in which orthodoxy rather than orthopraxy defines

what it means to be right with God, which produces a community with an abundance of right-thinkers filled with contempt for those who do not see the world as correctly as they do.

The single greatest cause of atheism in the world today is Christians...who acknowledge Jesus with their lips then walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. This is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable. Brennan Manning

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 John 4:8

David P. Gushee  
Mercer University Professor of Christian Ethics

## New Wednesday Night Activities

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Beginning January 21, a new book discussion study of *The Shack* led by Robert Townsend will begin. The shack study goes for 4 weeks the books cost \$8 each. Yoga will continue through the spring.

## Congratulations Fall Graduates!

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Ginger Burkhead, Master of Science in Nursing Education, East Carolina University College of Nursing

Jennifer Ferris, UNCW, Degree in Communications and a Minor in Spanish

William Ingold, Appalachian State University, BS in Business Administration with major of Computer Information Systems with concentration in Information Assurance

Phillip Jones, NC State University, BS Sports Management

Ashley Lowrance, UNCG with a Bachelors of Art in Hospitality & Tourism, Bachelors of Art in Spanish and a Minor in Business.

## Hey! What's for dinner? CPC Wednesday Night Fellowship

**1/7/2009**

Five Spice Pork Chops  
Hot Dogs  
Corn Pudding, Green Beans  
Cream Cheese Sheet Cake

**1/14/2009**

Chili, Veggie Chili  
Salad, Cornbread  
Key Lime Pie

**1/21/2009**

Orange Chicken  
Broccoli Penne  
Brownies

**1/28/2009**

Sweet & Sour Chicken  
Broccoli Salad, Orzo Pilaf  
Nanaimo Bars

**New Wednesday Activities  
 Beginning 1/21/2009**

- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 6:30-7:15 pm **Preschool:** (ages 3-5)  
 Angel Choir (ages 3-3), Room 106  
*\* Childcare provided in Preschool Room 104*
- 6:00-6:45 pm **Children:** (gr. 1-5)  
 Mission Friends (Grades 1-2)  
 Choir Chimes (gr. 3-5), Room 105
- 6:00-7:30 pm **Adult & Youth:**  
 Youth Room is open for home work, hanging out and coming to Jesus  
 Prayer & Announcements  
 Adult (and Youth) Activities  
*\* Book Discussion Study of the Shack led by Robert Townsend*  
*\* Yoga led by Sheila (Fellowship Hall)*  
 Adult Handbells  
 Adult Choir (Choir Room, 3rd Floor)  
*\* Childcare is provided in room 104 from 6:15-8 p.m.*
- 6:10 pm Prayer & Announcements
- 6:15pm Adult (and Youth) Activities
- 6:45 pm Adult Handbells
- 7:30-9:00 pm Adult Choir (Choir Room, 3rd Floor)

**The 15th Annual Male Bake-Off is Feb. 1st**

Immediately following worship on Sunday, February 1, everyone is invited to a simple lunch of soup and sandwiches in the Fellowship Hall. Afterwards, we'll sample all the male bake-off entries.

**Rules for entry are:**

- Any male 5 years old or older can enter (non-members are welcome).
- The entries should be ready for judging by 12 noon on Sunday, February 1.
- Men entering the contest may receive no help from any woman. Boys may receive some help from brothers, fathers, or other male figures.
- All entries should be a dessert of some variety. No jalapeno sawdust cakes, Matt.
- Men may use a boxed cake mix, but should not cheat.. (Cheating would be buying an already-made cake.)
- Awards will be given for Best in Show, Judges award, Most Creative, Best Looking (dessert, not the baker), Best Tasting, Best Chocolate, Best Non-Chocolate, Super Bowl Award, Muy Macho, Best First-Time Entry, Best Veteran, Weirdness Cup, Fruit Frenzy, Best Pie, Poison Control Alert, and People's Choice (1st, 2nd and 3rd place).
- There are three overall divisions: Boys (ages 5-11), Young Men (12-18), Men's (19 & older).
- Each entry costs \$5 to pay for the snappy awards.
- As always, three impartial judges will judge all desserts. Bribes are appreciated.

**Thank You**

Dear College Park Church,  
 Thank you so very much for the money you gave me for my trip to Africa Sudan. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Love,  
 Garang

**Christmas Poem  
 by Hannah Usey**

Mary had a baby and named him Jesus.  
 Everyone came to see the Lord in the manger.  
 Real kings and shepherds came.  
 Real gold they brought but the shepherds brought a song.  
 Y why?  
 Cause Christ the Lord was born.  
 Hallelujah for He is God's son.  
 Right Over the manger was a star.  
 It was so bright, a very shiny star.  
 So still it was.  
 The star was so big to show Bethlehem a new Lord is born!  
 Mary and Joseph were so happy.  
 And see every year on December 25 it's Christ's the Lord's birthday.  
 So Christmas is not all about presents, a Santa Claus, it's about Jesus' birth.



**Every Member a Minister**  
 Lin Bunce, Wake Forest Intern  
 Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer  
 Marie Chambers, Turning 90 Next Month  
 Cindy Dillon, Minister of Small Groups  
 Jeremy Fox, Wake Forest Intern  
 Rydell Harrison, Minister of Music & Worship  
 Patsy Kendall, Deacon Chair  
 Georgia Murray, Office & Media Manager  
 Helen Morehead, Sexton  
 David Soyars, Organist  
 Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Missionaries  
 Michael S. Usey, Pastor  
 Sally White, Handbell Director  
 www.collegeparkchurch.com  
 Progressive - Diverse - Ecumenical  
 cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net

College Park  
 An American Baptist Church  
 1601 Walker Avenue  
 Greensboro, NC 27403  
**Change Service Requested**  
 Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Permit 245  
 Greensboro, NC  
 Published monthly by College Park Church  
 Bulk rate paid at Greensboro, NC 27407  
 Our Communion bread is graciously donated  
 by Great Harvest in Friendly Center.

1601 Walker Avenue, Greensboro, North Carolina 27403-2318  
 Church Telephone: 336-273-1779; Fax: 273-9637  
 www.collegeparkchurch.com cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net  
 Alliance of Baptists - American Baptist Churches - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
 January Peanut Butter Donations = 35 Pounds  
 January Other Food Donations = 225 Pounds  
 Total for Year = 260 Pounds