



## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

**H**ave you ever heard someone say, *Let's not reinvent the wheel*? Full disclosure: I've said it myself — though not lately and not often. The idea behind this phrase, of course, is that the wheel is a basic machine and reinventing it or anything equally basic is unnecessary.

What if this phrase was tested long ago with an ancient-world focus group who preferred it over the other possibilities? *Let's not reinvent the lever, or let's not reinvent the wedge or let's not reinvent the inclined plane.* The wheel stuck!

The earliest wheel was probably a log. When two or more logs were put together, they could be used as a rolling platform. Was that the first improvement to the wheel? Picture a large stone rolling over a platform of logs on their way to a pyramid. At some point the axle came along and improved the log-platform. It saved the work of the people who had to carry the last log from the back of the rolling platform up to the front to keep it going.

Our ancestors didn't reinvent the wheel, but they did improve how they used it, and that, in turn, improved their quality of life. Here are a few examples...

The wheel improved food quality and production. Millstones ground grain, which was previously boiled and

eaten (aka porridge). At first humans or animals powered the millstone, but at some point the water wheel became its power source. Mills were built next to creeks and rivers to use the current and the weight of water to power the mill.

The wheel improved the ability to store stuff. Someone invented the potter's wheel and an infinite possibility of vessel designs were available for storing food, wine, oil, water, yeast, documents, etc.



The wheel improved clothing. Animal skins and boiled-and-pounded wool felting had to compete with woven fabrics because someone made a spinning wheel. (Words of praise are offered for the spinning wheel skills of the capable wife in Proverbs 31.) You can get wool from a sheep many more times than you can their hide. And spun wool has many valuable uses. Remember how upset Laban was when he thought that Jacob had left with his flocks of sheep and goats?

The wheel improved trading. Pulleys made loading and unloading cargo from ships more efficient and that increased sales. Pulleys also allowed for the hoisting of larger sails, and larger sails

meant fewer rowers, and fewer rowers meant more room for cargo, and that meant increased sales! Pulleys meant larger ships, greater distances, and faster travel with wind!

The wheel improved transportation. Bronze and later steel bands were added to wooden wheels to make them more durable. (Although Pharaoh's army didn't have a mud-proof wheel) Spokes made wheels lighter without reducing their strength. Picture pioneers headed west in covered wagons. All-steel wheels were put on trains. Large paddle wheels were put on boats on the Mississippi, and air-filled rubber tires were put on bicycles and then cars.

The wheel improved the way iron is forged, glass is blown, rope is made, coal is mined, and tools are manufactured.

In our history, humans haven't reinvented the wheel we have instead found new ways to use it. You may have thought of some beyond what I have shared here. Let me know what you've thought of.

There is a point to all of this... Like the wheel, we don't reinvent our lives either, but we can improve them. For many, the start of a new year can be a time to consider what needs improving. So what is God calling you to improve in 2013? And another question, too: how is God calling us to improve the church? Let's get rolling on that together in Christ, Jon.

Nursery Helpers for February

February 3- *Sam & Erin Evans*

February 10- *Sylvia Keller* and  
*Sue Gibson*

February 17- *Retha Robinette* and  
*Monica Hayden*

February 24- *Barbara Quesenberry*  
and *Bonnie Keller*

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Prayer List

Margaret Altizer, Nancy Lilly,  
Krisy Jackson, Jennifer  
Thompson, Lily Mehl, Spencer  
Pope, Carrie Kimery, Leroy  
Jones, Bruce Clark, Rhonda  
Moore, Blair Keller, Emma  
Barton, Grace Garrett, Phyllis  
Sams, Sara Lawson, Ann Lowry,  
Connie Counts, Virginia  
Thompson, Philip Brewer, Bob  
Elliot, Carolyn Deaton, Jody  
Williams, Judy Williams, Mike  
Altizer, Mary Gustin, Jeanie  
Evans' sister-in-law, Lucy & Joe  
Foster, Sarita Mullins, Meredith  
Haga, Bruce Blessing, Carrie  
Blevins, Judy Puckett, Karen  
Combs, Sally Brown, Carter &  
Emerson Hale, Kitty Pelfrey,  
Helen Garland, Elizabeth Ponder,  
Barbara Adams, David King,  
Lynn McConnell, Nancy  
Thompson, Barbara Knight, Edna  
McConnell, Bob Lowe, Bill &  
Marge Margerum, Sandra  
Wimmer, Janet McCauley, Eva  
Bailey, Bo Miller, Nancy Greary,  
Rickey White, Terry White, and  
Helen Carter.

Responding to the Good News

Date	Attendance	Offering
12-02-12	125	\$3853
12-09-12	105	\$2652
12-16-12	165	\$3334
12-23-12	120	\$8827
12-30-12	79	\$2738
01-06-13	106	\$3652
01-13-13	115	\$3172
01-20-13	121	\$5199



Sunday Morning, February 10

Pancakes will be served beginning at 9:00am

(Our version of Shrove Tuesday)

Sunday School will begin at 10:00am

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In the Sanctuary

February 13

7:00pm

Where your treasure is there  
your heart is also.

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Lenten Series with  
Soup and Sandwiches

6:00-7:00pm

February 24: Fellowship and Fun

March 3: The Hymns We Sing

March 10: Video Presentation

March 17: Dramatic Presentation

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Welcome our new officers.

**Elders:** Grace Garrett, Mary Jane  
Crosby and John Bagwell

**Deacons:** Melissa Eller, Burt  
Fletcher and F.L. Villiard

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We're making a new Church Pictorial  
Directory!

Sign up begins Sunday, January 27.

Photo dates: February 19, 20, 21

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We will be taking orders for Easter Lilies in March!

Birthdays/February

- February 6-Celina Wade
- February 7-William Collins
- February 12-Lisa Bailey
- February 14-Ed Dean
- February 16- John Dickens
- February 17-Leighton Sprinkle
- February 19-Blair Keller
- February 22-Tim Nichols
- February 22-Eric Wimmer
- February 23-Camden Puckett
- February 27-Linda Childers
- February 29-Carolyn Deaton

Anniversaries/February

- February 1-Joseph & Monica Hayden
- February 19-Doug & Liz Phillippi
- February 25-Bobby & Tia Hensley

Flower Calendar-2013

There are still several dates available to place flowers in the sanctuary. Come by the church office or give Barbara a call and pick a Sunday that you want to place flowers in the sanctuary.

Brunch at Perkins at 10:00am

Anyone interested in having a late breakfast on the first Wednesday morning of each month? If so, meet at the church at 9:30am and carpool to Perkins Restaurant. You can also meet us at Perkins if you wish. Everyone is invited!



## Youth Event

Pre-Superbowl Party at the Martins

Sunday, February 3,  
4:00-6:00pm

# Sunday School SCHEDULE

9:45-10:40am

Pre-School	<i>We Worship God Together</i> Teacher: Jeanie Evans
Primary	<i>Jesus: His Miracles</i> Teacher: Patty Clark
Middle School	<i>Read Your Bible Every Day</i> Teachers: Jane Prater and Erin Evans
Adult Bible Study	<i>Imitating Jesus</i> Teachers: Tom Deaton and Jasper Reynolds
Warner Room	<i>The Book of James</i> Teacher: Jon Martin

## Peanut Butter Offering

2012 Total	1,340
January 13, 2013	14
January 20, 2013	21
So far in Jan.	35
Overall Total	1,375

How soon will we reach 2013 jars?

## New Members in 2012

We were pleased to welcome into the membership at Green Spring Presbyterian Church the following people in 2012: *Teresa Halsey, Patsy Neel, Jo Sword, Leroy Jones, Kaye Jones, Jane Hilt, R.W. Hilt, Susan Villiard, F.L. Villiard, Sandy Lawson and Bill Lawson.*

From the Choir Director, Kevin Flannagan

It's hard to believe it, but the Lenten season is right around the corner. Ash Wednesday is February 13th and the First Sunday of Lent begins on February 17th. The Choir will begin work on Holy Week and Easter music soon so if you are interested in singing with the choir for this special season, please speak with Kevin soon. Our choir will once again be joining with the Old Glade Presbyterian Church Choir in Glade Spring for a Good Friday Service of Music and Readings, this year the service will be held in Glade Spring.

Be on the lookout for information about rehearsals for our children for music they will present during worship on Palm Sunday and Easter.