



January 2019

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Pastor
 Rev. Omar L. Dykes
 Presiding Elder
 Rev. Dr. JJ Jackson, III
 Northeast District
 Presiding Prelate
 Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr.

The Green

Keep Growing

By Pastor Omar L. Dykes

I must admit that it has been some time since I first saw this picture. Several years ago, while working on a presentation, this



picture was displayed on my screen. To my surprise, I was compelled to think about this very strange sight.

A tree that grows through the body of a vehicle. Fascinating! The more I looked at this strange sight the more it spoke to me.

Recently, I thought about growing in life and in faith. This picture came to mind. I saw something different that I did not see before. I saw the picture not as something strange, but something

that offered sacred meaning to me. Let me share a few of my thoughts. First, I wondered if the tree knew at the time it was planted and began to grow that a car had been placed over that very spot. The seed could not move to a different location once it started to grow. Second, I wondered if the person who left the car behind was aware that there was a seed planted beneath the ground that eventually would grow. There is little possibility that neither the seed nor the person knew about one or the other's existence. However, once the tree was aware of the vehicle over it the tree continued to grow.

The car was an obstacle that altered the growth but, did not stop it.

I believe, that this picture shares with us how we are called to keep growing in the

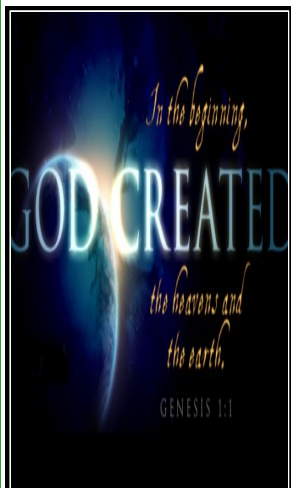
midst of things from life experiences placed over us. Difficulties, failures and even a painful past may alter our growth, but God creates and compels us, that no matter what we must keep growing.

We recently celebrated the coming into a new year, 2019; I encourage you that for the next 12 months make a decision that you are going to keep growing.

Shalom



Join the Mission
“Reaching the Lost and Teaching the Cross”



2019, Steps Toward Change By Jewel Mcgahee

Former President Barack Obama’s New Year’s resolution tweet asked for only one thing, “As the year winds down and we look toward 2019, I’m asking you to make a commitment. Find something you want to change in your community and take the first step toward changing it.”

He told the stories of five young leaders who inspired him in 2018. Their journeys began with a decision to build the better future they wanted to see. The same is true for

you. What matters isn’t the size of the step you take; what matters is that you take it. Using President Obama’s words as a guide, if you look at your school community, work community, home community, and/or church community, you can find things that need improvement. Instead of working to change only something about yourself, how about choosing something you can change to make your environment a better place. Concentrate

on your plan and work to achieve your goal.

Finally, our church has chosen Vision 20/20 as our commitment for the future, culminating in 2020. Pray about how your actions, in 2019, will move Greenwood to achieve our vision, “Refocus, Reconnect, Rebuild, Rejoice.

“God’s Word and God’s People” Sunday School Fall Review, By Tyrus Perry

Our study began in Genesis, the Bible’s book of beginnings. The focus was on the uniquely creative and re-creative activity of our Almighty God. We often associate the works of God in the book of Genesis with “God the Creator”. However, this series of lessons also put emphasis on God’s power to “re-create” any of His creation that is tainted by sinful actions of His most prized creation, mankind.

Unit 1: God Creates the World— We studied the

first three chapters of Genesis. We moved from general statements of God’s creation to a day-by-day record of specifics, then on to the climax of the Creator’s work (Man/Woman), created “in the image of God”. This crowing glory of the creation eventually breaks the peaceful fellowship with the Creator, by yielding to the temptations of the destroyer.

Unit 2: God Destroys and Re-creates— These les-

sons gave insight into the plans of the Creator to, “re-create and reverse the effects of sin’s curse”. While it could be said that the remainder of the Bible is an account of God’s attempts to “recreate” the sinless, harmonious fellowship originally enjoyed with *Adam and Eve*, emphasis is given here to God’s plans for the families of Noah and Abraham.

Cont. pg. 3

“In Loving Memory “

Now that we have celebrated their home-going, we can reminisce In our quiet moments About the kind and gentle essence of their wondrous spirit.

We will remember Their love, their smiles, and kind deeds.

And we will come to understand That our lives would not have been the same without them. Life's essence lies in the memories we wrought; the battles we have fought; The lessons we have taught; and the pinnacles we have sought.

So, when we entertain a quiet remembrance of our dear ones and the love and joy we shared, we will know that they are and always will be with us. We will say a quiet prayer of thanks to God for having placed them in our lives.

Like a dew-covered rose ,that gently unfolds its petals in the warmth of the morning sun and radiates in its glowing beauty, their spirits have taken flight and rejoices in the radiance of God's love.

By

Robbie George—Greer

Sunday School Fall review cont.

Unit 3: God Blesses and Re-creates Regardless—

The lessons of November showed that Abraham's descendants, as flawed as they were, received God's promised blessings. As a Kierra Sheard song, "Flaws" stresses, sometimes we are "way too much to put up with, but you put up with it all...My flaws". God longs to bless us and re-create the proper relationship/fellowship as it was in the beginning.

12.7. 2018 Read Around the Christmas Tree at Cherokee Elementary



**GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN
METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

3311 Kimball Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38111

Phone: 901-744-7665
Fax: 901-744-7664

The Green is published once per month. If you would like to submit an article, it should be between 200 –250 words. Please submit articles by the 15th of each month. All information must be approved by Pastor Dykes.

Coordinator: Joyce Cooper

Editor: Millicent B. DeWitt

Secretary: Helen Dozier

Consultant: Reverend Omar L Dykes

Photographer: Bonnie Holmes

Reporters: Gregory Bethel, Dorothy Johnson,
Jewel Mcahee, Ruby Porter, Glover Tillman

Church Website

www.greenwoodcme.com

Monthly Greenwood Updates

- ⇒ January 2 No Bible Study
- ⇒ January 7-10, 23thPastors' Conference & 75thFounders' Celebration, Atlanta, GA.
- ⇒ January 12 Rooms In The Inn 6p-6a
- ⇒ January 15 Church Conference 6p
- ⇒ January 19 Greenwood & MT. Olive Cathedral Leadership Training, Bishop Sir Walter Mack, Winston Salem, NC 10a
- ⇒ January 21 MLK Observance, Dream Keeper Workshop, Mt. Olive Cathedral 9a-12n

Were you There ?

