



# *The Circuit Writer*

## Greenbrier First United Methodist Church

Volume 1, Issue 5

December 1, 2014

Kevin Lyon, Pastor

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### **From the Pastor's Desk**

#### **December – Preparation for the Gift of Christ**

This month we focus on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. December has to be in every child's life their favorite month of the year. A recent Gallup poll of adults showed there was no clear consensus on the favorite month for adults but May, June, October, and December were most frequently mentioned. Despite extensive research this week, I couldn't find one scientific poll to confirm my hypothesis that December is a kid's favorite month. But I know it is... because it was for me. The colors, sounds, smells, music and anticipation of Christmas kept me excited all through the month of December. As a young child there was no month I looked forward to as much as December.

Today as an adult and a pastor, I realize that there is much to take care of to prepare for Christmas. From the things around the home that need to be done ... shopping, gifts, decorating, wrapping, cooking, cleaning ... to things at work ...sermons to write, worship to plan ... all those things that as a kid were done for me...now I am doing. The shoe, so to speak, is now on the other foot. I find myself sometimes wishing I could experience Christmas like I did when I was a kid. Just sit back and let others do the preparation.

But I have also found in all the preparation there is also a blessing. It seems the more I give of myself in preparation, the more blessed I am. I now actually enjoy the preparation and all that needs to be done. It reminds me of all the preparation that God had to do on that first Christmas. You know Jesus wasn't just born into our world one day with no foreknowledge or planning. His birth was foretold... the world was prepared...the manger was readied for the birth of our Savior. Mary was prepared. Joseph was prepared. The angels were prepared. The shepherds were prepared. The wise men were prepared. For those who think Christ came into a world that was unprepared for his coming, they haven't really thought about all of the planning that was done centuries before his birth. The world may not have been ready or expecting his birth but they were not unprepared. God had done the work of preparation long before the birth of Jesus.

I hope you will not enter into this Advent season unprepared. A blessing awaits you this Christmas season. Prepare your hearts for his coming!

*Blessings,*

*Kevin*





## THOSE SERVING IN DECEMBER

### LITURGISTS: (9:00 a.m.)

- December 7: Timi Bryan
- December 14: Steve Rose
- December 21: Casey Garrett
- December 28: Jason Hamerlinck

### CHILDRENS CHURCH:

- December 7: Theresa Lucas
- December 14: Michael Blackshire
- December 21: Diana Prout
- December 28: Jamie Ward

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 2: Jenna Kirk        |                        |
| 6: Jerry Reinhold    |                        |
| 9: Riley Harlan      |                        |
| 10: Wyatt Daniel     |                        |
| Donna Hartsfield     |                        |
| 12: Gregg Bray       | 18: Andrea Daniel      |
| 13: Andrew Humphrey  | Theresa Lucas          |
| 14: Faith Blackshire | Libby Lyon             |
| Jeremy Walton        | 23: Michael Blackshire |
| 17: Ayden Blackshire | Janan Day              |
| Betsy Whitten        | Sarah Mathis           |
|                      | 25: Mary McNabb        |
|                      | 27: Colby Crosby       |



### UNITED METHODIST MEN

The next UMM meeting is Saturday, December 20 in Wilson Hall. All men of the church are invited and encouraged to attend and enjoy a wonderful breakfast, fun and fellowship with one another.



**Grab an angel today!**

The Angel Tree is up in back of the sanctuary. Please choose an angel and help those in need. Angel tree gifts are due back to church Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please have them wrapped with the angel attached. Also please put a gift tag with name on the gift. After the committee members get the gifts sorted, the angel will be removed, leaving the gift tag.

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS



Thank you, thank you, donations of holiday food items has been awesome. Let's keep it up through Christmas this year. Don't forget "everyday" food items like 1 lb hamburger packages, peanut butter, desserts, and cereals. Monetary donations enable purchases of needed items and stocking up on sale items. Grocery trips are made at least once a week.

November has seen 26 families, 20 have been here a total of 4 times this year, bringing our total year to date to 338.

A special "thank you" to the discovery Club kiddies for making the Food Pantry their mission project. Thank you to the UMM for their monetary donation. And a great big "thank you" to Nancy for giving out the food and "keeping track of the families."

Warmest thoughts are with you  
as you celebrate the day  
When Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
Was born and love came down to stay.

Claire Welch  
Food Pantry Chair



### IMPORTANT GFUMC DATES IN DECEMBER

- 1, 8, 15 – Women's Prayer Group at 12 o'clock
- 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18 - PDO 10-3 pm  
No Discovery Club this month
- 3, 10, 17 – Adult Bible Study ...6:30 pm
- 3, 10, 17 – Youth Bible Study ...6:30 pm
- 6 – Betty Welch SS class Holiday party, 6pm at the Ziegler's
- 7 – Youth Group.... 4:00 p.m.
- 14 – UMW Holiday party 2:00 p.m. at Rebecca Mills  
93 Elliott Road – Greenbrier
- 14 – Youth Christmas Party ... 5:00 p.m.
- 14 – Angel Tree gifts due back today
- 20 – UMM Breakfast.... 7:30 a.m.
- 22-Jan. 2 – **CHRISTMAS BREAK**
- 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight service ... 6:00 p.m.
- 28 – One service only at 9:00 am  
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.
- 31 – No Wednesday Night Activities



Our Discovery Club meets from 6:30-7:30 on Wednesday nights during the school year. We welcome all kids ages 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade! We are learning about Old Testament stories this year. We read, play games, and do crafts to help us remember God's word. Our November lessons were all about Moses...baby Moses, Moses and the burning bush, Moses on Mt. Sinai, Moses and the Exodus, Moses and the ten commandments...you get the idea ☺. We are so thankful to Claire Welch for preparing our lesson plans and materials for us! Thank you Jim Kirk for teaching each week this month!

DC's November mission was the GFUMC food pantry. We gathered up two boxes of food to donate. Thanks to all those who brought food items!

DC will have a drawing at the end of the year for a cool prize from this summer's VBS. The drawing is based on good attendance. To be entered in the drawing, a child must miss 4 or less nights of DC for school year. We currently have TWELVE kids in the running! Good job!

We can always use prizes to stock our Prize Chamber. Nothing fancy is needed—things like bubbles, notepads, art supplies, hot wheels, trinkets, etc. are great! Thank you to Nancy Gage, Rhonda Garrett, the UMW, and all those who have graciously donated already this year. We couldn't do it without you!

DC will not meet on November 26 due to Thanksgiving break. We will not meet during the month of December due to Christmas break and to allow for all the special opportunities to serve the Lord during the Christmas season. Encourage your precious kiddos to be the hands and feet of Jesus! We will miss everyone and will reconvene on January 7, 2015!

We are so grateful for all the volunteers who keep DC running each year. Please contact Lacey Bray if you are able to help in any way with DC. See you Wednesday!

Blessings,  
The DC Team

## FUMC YOUTH NEWS



We took 19 Junior High youth to Refuge at the Shepherd of the Ozarks camp on November 7-9.

We had a great time in fellowship and worship over the weekend and I hope you have time to ask a youth about their experience sometime.

We will be taking a break on our Wednesday night bible studies through the month of December and start back up again after the first of the year. Our Youth Christmas party will be December 14 at 5 PM. We are moving the time back a little because of the band concerts that day for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade band members at school.

We are trying something new this next year for fundraising. We are offering sponsorships for our youth that will actually be an investment in the entire group. We are asking for just \$10/month for each sponsorship and you will receive an information sheet about one of our awesome youth kids. Our hope is that you will hang this up and pray for that youth throughout the coming year and hopefully get to know them a little bit. They will be sending you thank you notes throughout the year about what they are learning and what events your sponsorship has helped them attend. We will host a chili cookoff early next year as well but this is our main fundraiser for next year. The sponsorship will run from December 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015. If you haven't had a chance to stop by and sign up to sponsor our youth, please let me know, we will get you set up any time in the month of December. If we can get 100 sponsorships, we will not do any more fundraisers this next year and will be able to host some fun community outreach events instead. Please help us by continuing to support these youth as they begin to understand what having a relationship with God is all about.

Our next big event to attend is Veritas, March 6-8 in Hot Springs. This event is open to all youth from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Blessings,  
Michelle Kirk

## ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are taking a little break from our normal rotation material for the winter months and trying something new. It will begin in December and run through February so come join us and see what it's about.

See ya Sunday,  
Jim Kirk



## FINANCE REPORT

### Last Month to Help Catch Up January – November 2014

We have five Sundays left in 2014 and we want to give our church family an update on our finances. To date we have received gifts to our operating budget totaling \$149,338. That represents 85% of our \$180,000 budget. We are approximately \$12,000 behind where we should be at this time of the year.

Needed each Month	\$14,666	Needed Year To Date	\$161,326
Giving in November	\$13,484	Giving Year To Date	\$149,338

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**Deficit for November -1,182      Deficit Year to Date - \$11,988**

If you can help us catch up during the next few weeks it will help us to finish the year strong and pay out 100% on our Conference and District apportionments and all our other obligations. There is a budget giving sheet updated each week on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary for 2014. You can check that each week to keep track of our church's giving. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Pastor or Steve Rose. Thanks for your generosity in giving out of your love for God and in support of the ministries of our church this year.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE: 104 BOXES PACKED



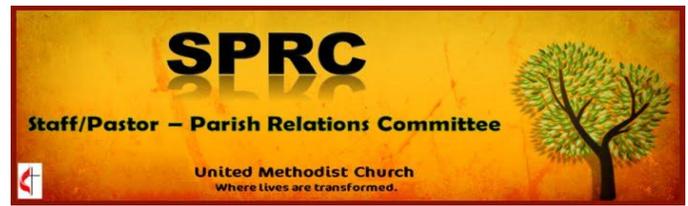
Thanks to all of you who helped us reach our goal of 100 boxes. Our boxes were delivered this week and will be heading around the world soon. We received word that our boxes will be going to Niger and Ghana in Africa and some down south to our neighbors in Mexico. We know these will be a blessing to the children that receive them and pray that they all might receive the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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#### A quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson

**“For flowers that bloom about our feet;  
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;  
For song of bird, and hum of bee;  
For all things fair we hear or see,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!”**

**Our Father watches over us, loves us and will always be  
with us as we go about doing our daily things, for that  
we give Him all the praise.**



Our SPRC Committee oversees and cares for the staff of our church and is involved in hiring new church staff as needed. Recently the committee has hired two new nursery workers. Brittany King started work in August and Missy Snowden was hired to complete our nursery staff this month. I hope you will stop by the nursery on Sunday morning and welcome these two ladies if you haven't done so all ready.

The committee also has hired Heather Rose to serve as our Worship Leader for the 9:00 a.m. service. Heather will be helping to lead us in worship each Sunday, helping to coordinate special music on Sundays and working with the pastor to improve our worship experience for the early service. She will be coming on board the first Sunday in December. She has some marvelous gifts and graces and a Godly spirit that will add a tremendous amount to our worship. We are thrilled to have Heather as part of our Sunday morning worship team. Please be praying for her as she steps into this role.

Continue to pray for the life of our church and our church staff.

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**Our Church Operating Budget for 2015 has been set by** the Administrative Board in the November meeting at \$190,000. This is a 5% increase from last year and includes increases in the budget items for our increasing youth ministry, the addition of a worship leader for our 9:00am service and nursery workers for Sunday morning.



The Administrative Board asked that you prayerfully consider increasing your pledge to the operating budget by at least 5% in 2015 to help with the growing ministries of our church. We are blessed to be part of a church that is growing and reaching more people for Christ.

If you would like to see a copy of the budget for 2015 or if you have any questions, you can come by the church office or email the pastor ([LyonK@aol.com](mailto:LyonK@aol.com)) and we will be glad to send it to you.

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