



The Circuit Writer

Greenbrier First United Methodist Church

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 1, 2015

Kevin Lyon, Pastor

From the Pastor's Desk

February – Preparation for the Season of Lent

On Wednesday, February 17, 2010, we will enter one of the most important seasons of the church year: the “40 days” of **Lent**. Many people may not be familiar with the season of Lent and wonder why should I “do” Lent? What should I do for Lent? How should I start?

We'll ask yourself some questions. Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a great time to "repent" -- to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40 day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. You might try one of these practices for Lent:

FASTING: Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, tv, soft drinks, cigarettes or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some activity like worry or reality tv to spend time outside enjoying God's creation. What do you need to let go of or "fast" from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear or do?

SERVICE: Some Christians take something on for Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, co-worker or friend everyday of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

PRAYER: Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God.

Christians from many different traditions celebrate Lent. The main question for you is ...How will you use this time to grow closer to God?

*Blessings,
Kevin*





THOSE SERVING IN FEBRUARY

LITURGISTS: (9:00 a.m.)

- February 1: Timi Bryan
- February 8: Steve Rose
- February 15: Casey Garrett
- February 22: Jason Hamerlinck

CHILDRENS CHURCH: (11:00 a.m.)

- February 1: Diana Prout
- February 8: Jaime Hamerlinck
- February 15: Jamie Ward
- February 22: Lacey Bray

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Mike Nichols | |
| 2 - Madi Hamerlinck | |
| 3 - Nancy Gage | |
| 4 - Norma Humphrey | |
| 5 - Ed Kerr | |
| 6 - Lori Schalk | 20- Jennifer Logston |
| 13- Ray Daley | 23- Jerry Baker |
| 14- Brady Harlan | 23- Carol Carraway |
| 14- Josh Lyon | 26- Mandy Reilly |
| 16- Ethan Hibner | 27- Mitch Burgess |
| 17- Casey Garrett | 28- Norman Brown |
| 19- Jeb Mathis | |



A BABY SHOWER

for SUZANNE (Baker)
BLACKBURN

February 22 at 2:00 p.m.
In Wilson Fellowship Hall

Hosted by Beverly Welch, Peggy Prout, Omerine Daley, and Carol Putnam. All are invited to come and share in the celebration. Suzanne is registered at Walmart.



United Methodist Men VALENTINE'S BANQUET Saturday, February 14

Everyone is invited to the Annual Valentine's Banquet sponsored by the UMM. It is being catered this year by Whole Hog Café.

Tickets are on sale at the Welcome Center for \$12 Please make your reservations by Sunday, February 8th. Don't miss this fun evening with your church family!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Our food pantry fed 63 families in the month of January. That is double what we normally feed in a month. We are thankful that we had the resources to minister to so many families but it has left our resources and shelves empty as we start the month of February. The SOUPER BOWL Sunday on February 1 helped to restock our shelves. Thank you so much for your generous response. We will let you know the results of our "informal votes" for the Super Bowl winner as soon as we finish tabulating them. This year, Thrivent Financial sponsored the GFMUC Souper Bowl food drive with a \$250 grant.



Keep up the donations through the 40 Days in the WORD sermon series. We still need "everyday" food items like 1 lb hamburger packages, peanut butter, desserts, hamburger and tuna helpers, canned meat, juices, mac and cheese, rice, instant potatoes and cereals. Monetary donations enable purchases of needed items and stocking up on sale items. Grocery trips are made at least once a week.

You are making a difference in the lives of people in our area. I can't express to you the gratitude that is shown to us each day as we assist these families. Thanks again for your continued support of this valuable ministry.

IMPORTANT GFUMC DATES IN FEBRUARY

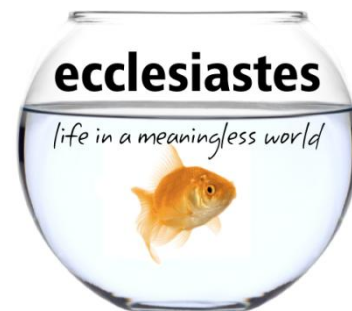


- 2, 9, 16, 23 – Women's Prayer Group at noon
- 3 – Blood Drive in Wilson Hall 3-7 p.m.

- 7 – Church Planning Day 8-10 am
- 14 – Valentine's Day Banquet 6:00 pm
- 17- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5-7 pm
- 18 – Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm
- 22 – Baby Shower for Suzanne (Baker) Blackburn
- 26 – Bethlehem House Meal 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY @ 6:30 pm

Come join us on Wednesday nights in February as we examine life "under the sun".





FINANCE REPORT January – February 2015

We ended 2014 paying all our outstanding bills, Conference and District apportionments and have begun 2015 on stable financial footing. But as our church grows our needs grow as well....this year's

budget for this is a 5% increase over last years and will require a greater commitment from our entire church family. Below you see our needs for each month and our monthly giving. Please do all you can to keep us on pace during this year.

Needed each Month	\$15,833	Needed Year To Date	\$15,833
Giving in January	\$13,831	Giving Year To Date	\$13,484

Deficit for January	-\$2,002	Deficit Year to Date	- \$2,002
----------------------------	-----------------	-----------------------------	------------------

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) and we will be glad to send it to you.



Check Out Our New Website

Come check out all the new and wonderful improvements we have made!
www.greenbrierfumc.org