

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?

Well 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
- 13- Ray Daley
- 14- Brady Harlan
- 14- Josh Lyon
- 16- Ethan Hibner
- 17- Casey Garrett
- 19- Jeb Mathis



20- Jennifer Logston

23- Jerry Baker

23- Carol Carraway

26-Mandy Reilly

27- Mitch Burgess

28- Norman Brown

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".



BLESSING BAGS

Hopefully most of you are aware of the recent mission project we have begun, calling it "Blessing Bags." These bags will be put together with the intent for individuals from our congregation to keep in their vehicle and to hand out to a person in need



(someone you might see on the side of the road, etc.) We are asking for help gathering items to go in these bags. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Items can be placed in the "wishing well" next to the Food Pantry collection area.

Great items to donate include (but are not limited to:)

- -hygiene products (deodorant, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, bar of soap, tooth brush, tooth paste, tooth brush, comb)
- -non perishable food items (crackers, apple sauce, can of soup-with pop top lid, bottled water)
- -blanket, hand warmers, gloves, socks
- -wash cloths, bandana, chap stick, Tylenol
- -small bible or scripture cards
- -gallon Ziplock bag (quart size to jumbo)

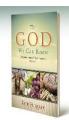
If you chose to donate money or gift cards (\$5.00 amount for fast food or hot beverage!) please give these items directly to Cassidy, Rhonda, Jamie Ward of Bro. Kevin.

CHURCH PLANNING DAY



On Saturday, February 7 from 8 -10 a.m. we will have our annual planning day to plan out the rest of 2015. Any member of our church is welcome to come and join in the planning and brainstorming for this year.

We are looking for new ideas for studies, outreach, mission, communication, worship, youth and children's ministries and much more. We will have donuts, orange juice, and coffee to get you started. We need your input so plan on being with us!



EXPLORING THE
"I AM"
SAYINGS OF JESUS



ORDER THE BOOK "THE GOD WE CAN KNOW" BY ROB FUQUAY FROM COKESBURY OR AMAZON AND JOIN US FOR OUR LENTEN STUDY BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25TH

FUMC YOUTH NEWS

We had a very successful sponsorship drive to help with our event costs. We ended up with 50 sponsorships so we should



be getting \$6000.00 over the next year.

Thank you all so much for supporting you youth group this year! We couldn't do anything without your support and we know that! There has been a little confusion with this fundraiser so I wanted to clarify how we are using this money. This money is intended for the whole group to use not just the youth that you picked out. The youth pictures and information sheets were for you to get to know one of our youth and pray for them by name over the course of this year. I apologize that it wasn't clearer at the time of the fundraiser.

We are back in the groove on Wednesday night Bible studies after taking a break in December. The senior youth are finishing up a study we started last year called the Gospel Journey and we will be starting something new very soon. The junior youth are working through a Duck Dynasty Bible study.

On Sunday nights, we have been watching the Bible series and should finish this in February.

We will be serving again this year at the Sweetheart Dinner on February 14. Don't forget to buy your tickets for that!

We are taking 28 youth to Veritas in Hot Springs on March 6-8. Please be in prayer for our group as we prepare and attend this youth conference.

Blessings, Michelle Kirk

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



Come join us on Shrove Tuesday, February 17 from 5:00-6:30 pm

Come enjoy a wonderful pancake dinner sponsored by the GFUMC Missions Committee. All donations will go toward the mission projects of our church.

Shrove Tuesday is the day

before Ash Wednesday which signifies the beginning of the season of Lent. Pancakes are traditionally associated with the day preceding Lent because they were a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent.



Thursday, February 26 - 6:00 p.m.

We need Mexican casseroles, sides, and desserts. (Sponsored by Betty Welch Sunday School class this month)



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 (<u>LyonK@aol.com</u>) and we will be glad to send it to you.

