



The Circuit Writer

Greenbrier First United Methodist Church

Volume 4, Issue 1

September, 2015

Kevin Lyon, Pastor

From the Pastor's Desk

September is a busy month in your pastor's life and in the life of the church. All of us are getting adjusted to life after summer and getting back into the routine of school, work and hopefully church. Some of you have been gone a good bit this summer (you know who you are) and need to get back building your spiritual muscle through fellowship and worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope you will keep your pastor and church in your prayers as we gear up our church activities.

Let me share with you my schedule so you can pray for me this month. I will be the spiritual director for a Walk to Emmaus on September 10-13 in Hot Springs. This is a spiritual retreat where a team of about 30 individuals share the weekend with 32 individuals who are making their "pilgrim walk" focusing on Christ's love and God's grace. They listen to 15 talks that inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others. I am hoping this year some of our folks will want to be part of this weekend. I'd be glad to get you the application. The Rev. Bob Hager will be preaching on this Sunday as I am away. Bob is a previous pastor at Greenbrier FUMC and has a great love for the church. You won't want to miss his message.

September 16-18, I will be in Nashville, TN for the New Room Conference. The name for the Conference comes from a small chapel that John Wesley built in Bristol, England in 1739 and he simply named it the New Room. The simple structure consisted of a preaching hall on the ground floor and several rooms on the second floor where Wesley's preachers would stay when in the area. The New Room served as the first headquarters and home base for the growing Methodist revival. A few Methodist preachers from Arkansas will be heading to Nashville to engage in some new conversations about how we might bring about a new move of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and in our churches.

Now for the church..... Discovery Club starts back, New Sunday morning material for our kids, Handbells for our youth, Bible study on Wednesday (digging in deep to Galatians). Pictorial directory pictures will be taken September 24, 25, & 26 (sign up today) and a time of 'mugging with love' will kick off on September 20.

Pray for me this month and I will be praying for you and our church. If you have been away for the summer.... It's time to get back in the routine as we walk through Galatians in September and October and get a deeper understanding of God's grace.

In His Love,

Kevin

P.S. In case you missed it... Here are a few pictures of my first grandson!



FUMC YOUTH NEWS

We have had an exciting end to our summer! We took 26 youth to Jr. and Sr. assembly at Hendrix at the end of July and 28 youth to the Methodist Family Health Bridge Walk and Wild River Country lock-in the first weekend of August. We also had 5 awesome young adults host a lock-in at the church for them on August 21. Heather and Lauren Rose, Cassidy and Zach Broadway and Casey Garrett deserve a huge THANK YOU for doing that for the youth group. The youth loved it! and THANK YOU to the UMM for making a wonderful breakfast for all of them before they went home! We appreciate everyone so much for their support of our youth.

We are having our 2nd annual leadership retreat for our Youth Council on August 29-30 and we are looking forward to another great year.

The **BIG** news for September is we will be starting our Wednesday night programming back on September 9th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Of course we will still be meeting on Sundays from 4-6 p.m. but on Wednesday night time will give you a break from studying and an opportunity to get recharged to get recharged for the rest of the week. Also, there are a number of deadlines coming up that you don't want to miss. The deadline for **Refuge registration is September 15th**. Michelle Kirk has the forms. This is a Conference youth event 6th - 9th grade youth at Shepherd of the Ozarks Retreat Center. Our kids love this event so don't let your Junior High youth miss this one. This year, Refuge is November 6-8 but registration is due **September 15th**.

Also, **Youth Choir Tour registration is due October 1**. Two of our youth, Tricia Walker and Lacey Crosby, were part of last year's Youth Choir Tour that traveled all over the state performing and praising God. Choir Tour is next summer, June 12-19 but the youth choir will start practicing around the first of the year. If you are interested talk to Tricia or Lacey about what a blessing Choir Tor was for them and sign up to be a part of Choir Tour 2016!

Invite some friends to come with you on Sunday evenings or Wednesday as we grow in our love for Christ and his church!



NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING: September 9th at 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing promoting our new cookbook and other items. All women are invited.



FINANCE REPORT

Giving to the church's general fund continues to run slightly above last year although not sufficient to fully fund the budgeted expenses for 2015. Fortunately routine general expenses, excluding the new mover purchased in 2015, are running slightly below budget. Here's a quick summary of the annual activity through July (the last full month reported) for the General fund:

	Actual (through July)
Cash balance, beginning of year	\$17,656.24
General Fund giving/income	\$99,544.26
General fund expenses	\$109,750.09*
Cash balance, July 31	\$ 7,450.41

*Expenses include purchase of new mower that was not part of the 2015 budget.

	Budget (through July)
General fund giving/income	\$111,895.00
General fund expenses	\$111,923.00

Thank you for your continued support of GFUMC's ministry through your tithes and offerings. August month-to-date giving has been very good. Please help us to finish the year strong by your strong support in the last four month of the year. Please also let me know if you questions.

Also ... Online Giving Is Now Available

Based on the approval of the Administrative Council, we have established the ability to make online donations through the church's website. The donation button is on the lower right of GFUMC's home page. It can be accessed at www.greenbrierfumc.org. We are using PayPal as the processor of the online donations. PayPal is charging a transaction fee to the church of 2.2% plus \$.30 per transaction. We are asking that any online donor offset the cost of this and so the donation button will automatically increase your donation to cover this transaction fee. Once you proceed with the donation you may log into your PayPal account and make the donation either charging to the credit card of your bank account which you have linked to your PayPal account, It's no problem if you don't have a PayPal account - you may just proceed as a guest and charge to a credit card.

We have established an initial list of five different funds/purposes that you may choose from, including the general fund and youth fund. Unfortunately a limitation of the donation button is that you may only designate one fund per transaction, so to make a donation to more than one fund it will have to be done through multiple donation transactions.

We realize this optional giving method may not be for everyone and most certainly the option of giving on Sunday mornings is still available and is likely to be the option still chosen by most. But after discussion with the Ad Council we felt it appropriate to add this online giving option for such situations as the member is away but wants to go ahead and five their tithe/offering, the member may just prefer this option, friends of the church living outside of Greenbrier want to make a donation to the church, and so forth. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions related to online donations.

Steve Rose, Treasurer



**BRAND NEW
DISCOVERY CLUB AND
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND
CHILDREN'S CHURCH
BEGINS THIS FALL!**

There is so much going on with our children's ministry this fall we don't know where to begin.

Sunday morning, Jim Kirk will lead the way by using video, activities, trivia games and other fun ways to cement the Bible truths of the week into your kids hearts and minds. If your kids (ages 4-11) are not in Sunday School ...they will want to be. Plan on getting them started in Sunday School on September 6th!

Our Wednesday night **Discovery Club** program begins September 9th with a big kickoff. Dianna & Ed Prout will be heading DC up this year and will be utilizing the Deep Blue material to follow along what we do on Sunday morning. So your kids will have the same theme on Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings. This will help reinforce the Bible theme for that week. Claire Welch is doing all the lesson plans and coordinating our material for those two weekly events. Your kids will love this new material. So please get them here on Sunday and Wednesday. They will learn the Bible as never before! Our Discovery Club program will be for ages 5 to 5th grade. Preschoolers and toddlers will meet in the nursery room where they will have the same Bible story and activities that are more appropriate to their age.

We are also excited about **Children's Church** during our 11:00 worship hour. We will be utilizing the Sharefaith curriculum (www.sharefaithkids.com) to walk our kids through the Bible in one year. While the adults are hearing the sermon, our younger kids will be hearing one of the great stories in the Bible and learning a specific truth from God's Word. We still need a few volunteers for this. So sign up today to help!

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men are actively meeting monthly at the church on the 3rd Saturday for a scrumptious breakfast, the Spiritual Word delivered by Kevin, and planning various mission projects at our church, our community and the world. Most recently we provided breakfast for our youth lock-in, and we were totally blessed by our efforts...as we always are! Also, as a group we have adopted a highway mile for trash pickup which we will be doing in October. On another note, several of us also participate in visiting with folks at the Greenbrier Nursing Facility bringing them comfort at this time in their lives. Some of us are also involved in maintaining our facilities at the church including lawn care.

Soooo, we want to remind you that ALL men in the church are invited to join with us, for without you we are NOT who we should be. See you soon!



New Church Pictorial Directory
September 24, 25, & 26

Sign up for your appointment today at

<http://appt.lifetouch.com/>

Our church will be doing a new pictorial directory and we need each of you to be part of it. Lifetouch will be here on September 24, 25, & 26 to take our pictures. You can sign up online at <http://appt.lifetouch.com/> or call Carolyn Baker who is the coordinator for our new directory. With so many new families and two worship services this is a great way for you to get to know your church family. Each family unit that gets their picture taken will get a free pictorial directory and an 8x10 portrait. So sign up today to get your choice of day and time!



On August 27, we served at least 60 (maybe more) people for dinner and completely ran out of food. Thanks to all the people that served and provided the food. There is such a good response from those at the House. It is such a blessing for us to provide for these people. If you haven't experienced this meal, plan to do what you can to help. You will see the joy on their faces.

We prepare and serve the food the 4th Thursday of every month and always prepare a Mexican meal for those who come. We need 7 to 8 Mexican style casseroles and additional side dishes and desserts to feed 60-75 people each month. If you can help in preparing food or would like to help serve one month please call the church office and we will let you know what is needed. .

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

OCC will kick off in October, with school supplies being a must for each box, be on the lookout for clearance sales now that school has started. This is a great way to get the needed supplies at a reduced rate. More info in the October newsletter.

OCC TEAM

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Drive collected **25** usable unites. Thanks to all who donated blood, cookies, juice, and their time!

