



Greenbrier FUMC *focus*

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
GREENBRIER FIRST UNITED METHODIST
JUNE 5-JUNE 19, 2016

Vacation Bible School Begins June 12-16

Surf Shack : Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love

Remember that the Lord is great and awesome! Nehemiah 4:14b

At **Surf Shack**, GreenbrierFUMC's 2016 Vacation Bible School, your child will discover an interactive, energizing, Bible-based program that will give them an opportunity to catch God's amazing love. During Vacation Bible School at **Surf Shack**, your child will become a Surfer and explore how to serve God and God's mission for his or her life. After a high-energy opening assembly at the Surf Shack, the Surfers make their way to the Story Deck. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Wave Words for following God's plan for our lives, and your Surfers will discover Pop-Up Verses (Bible memory verses) that will remain

with them in their faith long after VBS is over.

Surfers will expand on what they've discovered by participating in a variety of activities: making their own art projects at the Craft Hut, singing new music at Tidal Tunes, exploring science activities at Discovery Dunes, participating in recreational activities at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty snacks at the Shack Snacks. Along the way, the Surfers will hear about our mission projects and enjoy being active!

It's going to be a great week...so don't miss riding the wave with us!

Church Events

- June 4th - Red Bird Mission Team to Beverly, Kentucky
- June 12th - Vacation Bible School Begins at 6:00 p.m.
- June 18th - Men's Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.
- June 19th - Annual Conference Begins in Hot Springs at 4:00 pm
- June 19th - Administrative Council at 5:00 p.m.
- June 19th - Youth Choir Tour at Pulaski Heights Methodist
- June 27th - Mary/Martha Circle (Adam Hamilton Study: Half Truths begins)

RED BIRD MISSION TEAM TO KENTUCKY

Red Bird Mission sits in an isolated area of three counties, traditionally under-served by state and local government agencies. A team from Greenbrier FUMC will be heading to Beverly, Kentucky from June 4-11 to assist with upgrading below standard housing in the Red Bird River Valley area. The team includes; Jamie Ward, Ron Carbon, Steve Zahner, Debbie Crosby, Lacey Crosby, Rosemary Gamble, Ed Prout, Michael Blackshire, Kevin Lyon, Omerine Daley and Randy and Rhonda Garrett. The team already has their work assignment to work on a local home and are excited for the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ. Some of the team will be leaving out Saturday morning, June 4th. The pastor and the rest of the team will be heading out Sunday after church. Please keep the team in your prayers throughout the week.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The Food Pantry has been blessed with many wonderful donations in the last month. Thank you for making the Quarters for Food a big success. Over \$2000 was raised! Last year about \$6000 was spent to purchase food. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for the idea of using M&M tubes and for the \$250 grant to purchase them. Thank you to whomever dropped off several cases of Pack Shack "cheesy rice and vegetable." Thank you to Centerville UMC for their donations of food and 12 cases containing 6 sacks each of snacks for kids. Thank you to the Boy Scouts for their collective and individual donations. And thank you to all of you for honoring the Lord by giving what you are able to help the hungry.

As of May 30th, food has been given out 160 times to approximately 120 families. The majority of families (81%) have only used the food pantry one time and another 11% have only used it twice this year. Our food pantry is helping families in their times of need to get through difficult circumstances in their lives.

The current needs are 1# packages of hamburger, canned

luncheon loaf (Spam), small packages of chicken, tuna or hamburger helper, soup, and cookies (or other desserts).

Cash Saver is missed! We have found good prices at the new 10 Box and Dollar Trees in Conway. If you come across a great deal somewhere, please let us know (501-581-8400). You might also purchase several of the item and turn in the receipt for reimbursement.

There has been talk about providing toiletries, toilet paper and cleaning products but at this present time there is no room to keep them stocked in the Food Pantry.

We are constantly amazed that we can continue to meet the needs of so many in the Faulkner County area. Often times we wonder how we are feeding so many families. It is that mustard seed faith, a wonderful church family and a gracious God who provides what we need to minister to so many. Thank you for helping to make all this possible!

Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say

The Mary/Martha Circle which meets every third Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. invites you to join them for Adam Hamilton's book on Half Truths...simple phrases that sound Christian yet are not found in the Scripture. The study will begin on **Monday, June 27th** this month due to Annual Conference...but will return to the third Monday of the month schedule in July.

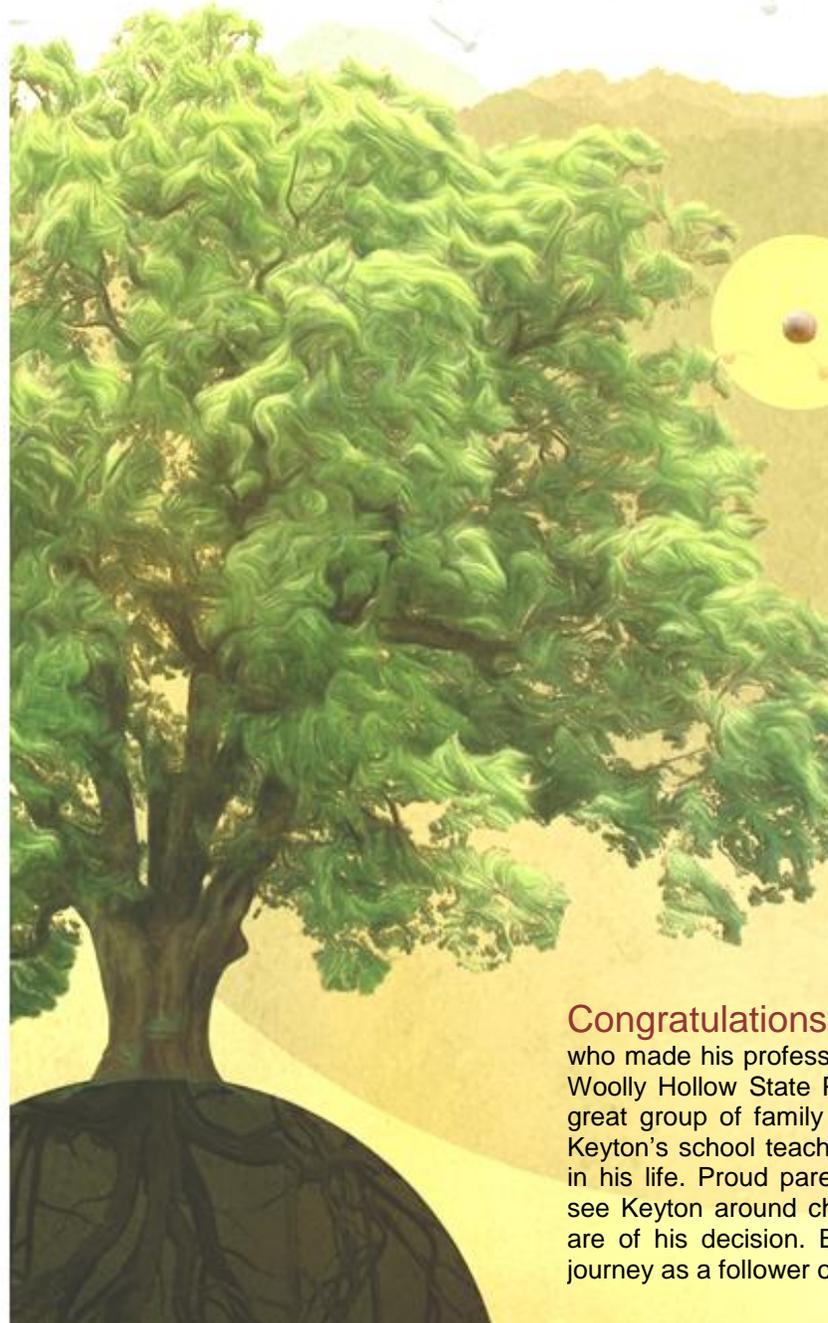
The study will take one phrase each month and compare the common saying with the wisdom from the Scripture. Phrases like: Everything Happens For A Reason; God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle; Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin; and God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It. All of our ladies are invited to be part of this study. If you'd like more information talk to Norma Jo Humphrey or Carolyn Baker.

New Sermon Series Coming in August: "Revelation: Glimpses of What's to Come"

A few years ago, we focused on the first three chapters of the book of Revelation which dealt with the messages to the seven churches.... but we stopped there. There have been a few of you who have wanted to go further on Sunday mornings into this perplexing book of the Bible. Starting on Sunday, August 21st, we will begin a seven week sermon series that will lead us through Chapters 4 – 22. You can use these summer months to be reading through Revelation and asking God to begin to speak to you about some of the key images and how Christ is revealed throughout this book.

Congratulations to Keyton Skyler Rose

who made his profession of faith in Christ and was baptized at Woolly Hollow State Park on Sunday, May 29th. There was a great group of family and friends gathered as well as two of Keyton's school teachers to support him on this important day in his life. Proud parents are Casey and Krystle Rose. If you see Keyton around church be sure you share how proud you are of his decision. Be praying for Keyton as he begins his journey as a follower of Christ.



It Starts With One Seed

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed... (Matthew 13:31)

Financial News

Summertime can often mean a slump in giving to the church as people are away or on vacation. Please continue to support your church in prayer and giving during the summer months. You can give via the GreenbrierFUMC church app or online at www.greenbrierfumc.org or through the old fashion way of mailing the church a check.

Here is where we stand at the end of May:

OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2016	\$193,796.00
NEEDED TO DATE	\$81,990.61
GIVING AS OF MAY 31, 2016	\$76,954.58
DEFICIT TO DATE	-\$5,036.03

SPRC NEWS

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) met last week due to a vacancy in our Parent's Day Out (PDO) Director position. Our current director, Tricia Cullum, resigned at the close of this school year. Tricia has done a splendid job the past three years and we are sorry to see her go. The SPRC has recommended that we fill the position with two co-directors, Judy Foley and Anda Block. Judy and Anda have served as PDO teachers in our program for a number of years. They will share some responsibilities and each will also have specific roles that they will cover. We will be hiring a third teacher this summer to assist them with the program. Our PDO program is a preschool program for ages 2-5 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00-3:00 p.m. that follows the Greenbrier Public School District calendar. We do have some openings for the Fall, so if you know someone that might be interested in our program please spread the word.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees met last week to continue to look at upgrades to our facility. We talked about LED lighting for the parking lot that will be placed on our building to flood the lot. We also looked at cost estimates and plans for renovation of the front bathrooms and lobby area that we will present to the Administrative Council in June. The lighting for the parking lot, new heating and AC unit for the fellowship hall and any renovations to the front lobby area would have to be funded by a special congregational fundraising project. The good news is the majority of the parking lot project including the french drain system, totaling over \$70,000, was paid for by endowments and a future gift from the Mobley estate.

We will keep you informed as to the status of any future projects but if you have any questions please feel free to talk to one of our Trustees. (John Welch, Jon Eubank, or Casey Garrett)

Long Range Planning Committee

The 5 year plan is moving along as the committee is working this month in pairs to develop goals and objectives in five key areas: Worship, Educational Programs, Outreach, Fellowship and Facilities and Property. As they work through the goal development process be praying for God's wisdom and discernment for them.



YOUTH NEWS

During June and July, we will meet on Wednesday night from 6:30-8:30 PM, starts this Wednesday!! We will be finishing up our study over the Fruits of the Spirit for the next 2 Wednesday nights then when we meet again after VBS, we will be starting something new. I am still in the process of figuring out what that will be but I am leaning toward a movie Bible study. I have found a good one on the Hunger Games that I would love to do with them unless I find something else. Sometimes God just puts something right in front of me at the last minute so I try to stay open for that, just in case!

This is also the time that we welcome upcoming 6th graders to join us in the youth group. The Methodist Family Health Bridge Walk is the first event that they get to come to with us but they are welcome to start coming to youth this summer. If you know of someone that is not on this list who has an upcoming 6th grader, please forward this to them and let them know that I will be happy to add them to this list to get info for our group.

We are a little behind with screenings and elections so we are ready to begin this process this Wednesday. It took longer than expected to get the applications filled out and organized. We think attendance (especially from our leadership team) is an important part of leadership so we think when elections take place, it is important that the youth applying for leadership are there during elections. These elections will take place hopefully this Wednesday but it could be next Wednesday, June 8. If your youth really wants to be on the leadership team but can't be there one of these days, please let me know or have them let me know. If your child gets on the leadership team, they will be required to go to the leadership retreat August 27-28 of this year.

Also, there is a sign-up sheet in the big youth room, we need lots of youth 8th grade and up to come help with **VBS June 12-16**. You can help in one of the teaching stations or help shepherd a group of younger kids from station to station. I want them to sign up so I will be able to let Jaime know what we can cover. So if your youth can help with VBS that week, please let them know or better yet, let me know so I can sign them up (sometimes they forget)! This is an excellent way for us to pay back to our church for everything they do for us!

Choir Tour is just around the corner. We will plan to go to their last performance at Pulaski Heights in Little Rock on June 19 (yes, I realize it is Father's Day, so bring Dad with you). If your youth didn't come with us last year to see them, they need to come to this one. They did a great job and led a very moving worship service.

Lots happening with our Youth this summer! If you have any questions or want to help, just ask Michelle Kirk!

Miscellaneous Announcements

- **Jr. High & Sr. High Assembly is ALMOST HERE! Adult VOLUNTEERS needed!**

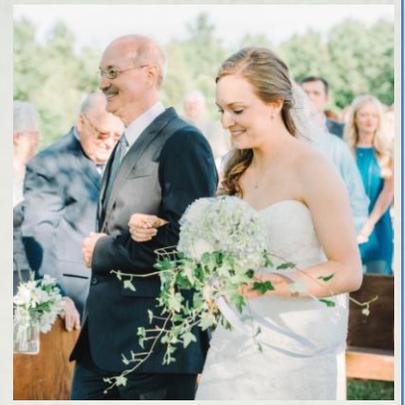
We have 33 youth signed up to go to Youth Assembly this year, another record year! With that comes a need for more volunteer help. As of right now, we have 4 adults going but we could really use one or two more (need at least one female). The week is free to our chaperones!! You will get three meals a day and some amazing quality time with some pretty awesome kids. We need the most help at night during free time and bed checks so technically; you could work during the day and just join us in the evening if work is holding you back. **Assembly is July 25-29** and Michelle would need to get you registered by Tuesday if you can join us. Please let Michelle Kirk know ASAP and thank you for considering it.

- **The Arkansas Annual Conference** is June 19-22 in Hot Springs. All the local United Methodist churches in Arkansas will be represented by at least one pastor and lay person from each church. Your pastor will be going as well as our lay representative, Carolyn Baker. Annual Conferences approve programs and budgets, examine candidates for ministry, hears reports from various agencies, votes on resolutions and worships together. Please keep the Annual Conference in your prayers during this time.

- Thanks so much to **Mitch Burgess** for leading the Wednesday night Bible study on Ephesians. Mitch is always willing to step in and teach or preach when the pastor has other obligations or is out of town, It is a great blessing to have someone like Mitch in our congregation!

- **Men's Breakfast is Saturday, June 18th** at 7:30 a.m. All of our men are invited to come and join us for a great breakfast, fellowship and study. Mark your calendar!

For those of you who wondered if your pastor could do it... He did somehow walk her down the aisle with a smile on his face and managed to get through the service with minimal tears. What a blessing to be able to walk her down and then perform the ceremony for the most beautiful bride there has ever been! There are still two things that I know for sure: She was sent here from heaven and she is still Daddy's little girl! Congratulations Michael and Libby Palese!



May 14, 2016

- Thanks to **SICO in Conway** for donating six new round tables and a number of rectangular tables to the church. Cost of those tables would have been well over \$1500. Also a big thanks to **Randy Garrett** for going down and picking them up this past week.
- If you are interested in going on the **Walk To Emmaus**, a 72 hour spiritual retreat this fall, please contact Brother Kevin so he can get you scheduled. The Walk is a three day experience where you will be encouraged by God's grace and love as it is revealed to you through the lives of other believers. There are wonderful spiritual surprises each day along with an opportunity to share Holy Communion. The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge and equip you for ministry within your local community and church. The dates for the fall walks are: Men's Walk - **September 22-25** and the Women's Walk on **October 20-23**. If you are interested or have further questions, you can talk to Carolyn Baker or Bro. Kevin. Let us know this month if you are interested because the fall walks fill up quickly!
- The **Arkansas Conference Youth Choir** will be touring around the state from June 13-19. If you have a chance be sure and catch this group. We have three of our kids on tour this year, **Tricia Walker**, **Brady Harlan** (drummer) and **Lacey Crosby**. They will be performing in United Methodist churches in Hot Springs, Batesville, Fort Smith, Osceola, Star City, and end at Pulaski Heights in Little Rock on the 19th.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 31st - Fifth Sunday Potluck

We haven't had a fifth Sunday potluck in a good while. So plan on joining us and bringing your best dish to share. We will have one worship service at 11:00 a.m. and then gather together with great food and fellowship in the fellowship hall. Let's make this one great summer potluck. So mark your calendar and invite friends and neighbors to join us on this Sunday!

August 5th & 6th - Church-Wide Prayer Vigil

As we get ready for the fall, kick off a new school year, send kids off to college, we want to begin by calling our church to pray. There will be a lot going on and there is no better way to get our church focused. We will start Friday August 5th and care on through Saturday the 6th... More details to come and an opportunity for you to sign up for a spot to come and be in prayer here at the church. Stay tuned!