

Back to School Edition

GreenbrierFUMC *focus*

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GREENBRIERFUMC | AUGUST 2016

School Starts Monday! Back in the Routine

It's hard to believe that school begins this Monday! Where has summer gone? I know that kids aren't happy at all that they will be setting their alarms, hitting the sack early Sunday night, rising early Monday morning, and getting back into the routine. The start of school also means getting back in the routine for parents; packing lunches, preparing early morning breakfasts, helping with homework, and heading off to school programs. "Routine" sounds less than appealing. Routine sounds so boring, so methodical, so repetitive. But routine isn't all that bad. Routine means finding something that works and sticking with it. Routine can be good. So as you think about getting back into the school routine, now would be the time to get back into the church routine. Vacations are behind us, summer baseball/softball has come to an end and now is the time to reconnect with ministry.

Let's begin by praying for our college kids

that will be beginning a new part of their life; For our seniors in high school that are completing a phase; For our kids that will be facing new challenges and temptations. For our teachers and administrators as they big a new school year with enthusiasm. Prayer is a valuable ministry of our church and I hope you will join me in praying for students and teachers this week.

Then I hope you will be thinking about where you can plug in to a new routine in the life of our church. We will have new opportunities for study, small groups, and to be equipped to serve like Christ. We will have a new sermon series on the book of Revelation beginning next Sunday that will bring you hope in the midst of this chaotic world in which we live. So get back in the routine of worship on Sundays.

So, welcome back to the good routine and may this year of school and ministry be both profitable and enjoyable for His Kingdom.

Keep Praying – this month pray for our teachers and students

I am so thankful for our 24 hour prayer vigil and those that participated at the church and at home. But please don't let that be the end of your focused prayer. This month as school begins focus on praying for teachers and students. Here are some teachers in our faith family to start you on your prayer journey this month: **Melinda Wright, Ashley Blackshire, Ann Harrod, Margo Jevicky, Donna Lyon, Nicole Garrett, Zach Broadway, Ronda Smith, and Andrea Jevicky.** That gives you a few names to start on this week as you focus on praying for teachers and students!

Church Events

- **Aug 14th** - Long Range Planning Committee @ 2:00 p.m.
- Youth Group at 4:00 p.m.
- **Aug 15th** – Mary/Martha Circle Study (Half Truths) @ 1:00 p.m.
- **Aug 20th** – Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 p.m.
- **Aug 21st** – **New Sermon Series** Revelation: Glimpses of What's to Come begins @ 9:00 & 11:00 a.m
Long Range Planning Committee @ 2:00 p.m.
- **Aug 25th** – Bethlehem House Meal @ 6:00 p.m.
- **Aug 27-28th** – Youth Leadership Retreat
- **Aug 30th** – Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall @ 3:00-7:00 p.m.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" (1 John 3:17)

The food pantry has given out food 250 times this year putting it on track to a record 400 times. The first year records were kept was in 2008 when food was given 64 times. About \$700 is being spent each month from the food pantry fund; an increase since donations of food have been down. Each family receives about \$35 worth of food. It used to cost about \$50 but lower prices (\$1.00 or less) are being found at Dollar Tree, 10 Box and Kroger member sales so the amount of food given has not decreased. Years ago, only a couple plastic bags were filled with food by the secretary; now 2 large paper sacks and a plastic bag are pre-filled.

The most needed items are 1# hamburger packages; small packages of chicken; peanut butter; luncheon loaf; cereals, fruit, "helpers" and soups. The Dollar Tree has many of the items carried including pancake mix, syrup, jelly, tortillas, cookies, milk,

juice, dry beans, spaghetti, oil, instant mashed potatoes, and baked beans.

Yes, our food pantry does matter to people in our community. A few weeks ago, Jerry Baker was cleaning the church on Saturday morning. He heard someone knocking on one of the doors and went to investigate. A young woman was at the door holding several sacks. She handed him the sacks and said that our church food pantry had helped her some time ago when she really needed the help. Now she was in a position to help others and she wanted to donate food to our church. What a blessing to know that we were able to help someone when they needed it. The woman gave Jerry a hug and left.

Our food pantry provides a lifeline to those who cannot stretch their budget or have had a crisis and cannot afford food for a time. Please remember to add a few extra items to your cart or make a cash donation to help the church continue this vital mission in our community.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me."



Matthew 18:1-5

YOUTH NEWS

It has been a great summer but now we get back into the routine of school, band, football, and of course youth on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. We will be having youth on Sundays only until September 7...then we will add Wednesday night into the mix as well.

Our leadership team has its annual fall retreat August 27-28. Please let Michelle know as soon as possible if you cannot attend the retreat. This is the biggest leadership team we have had mainly because we have 1 more DCYM rep this year and 2 CCYM reps this year. Looks to be an exciting and fun year full of growth!

Refuge is coming in November for all youth 6-9 grade. We have added another weekend to try to accommodate more Jr. high youth since refuge has sold out quickly the last couple of years. Also, you won't want to miss it this year, our praise

band, T4:12, will be leading worship both weekends. Be praying for the praise team as they prepare for this awesome opportunity. Because of this, we are going to attend as a group on the second weekend, November 11-13. That way, the youth that are in the band and also of age for Refuge can focus on being the band the first weekend and work out all the kinks so they can enjoy their Refuge the second weekend. More info will come out in mid August and I am hoping to register our group early on September 1.

And don't forget there is a "Come See Me" board up in the big youth room. We LOVE to come out and watch these kiddos in their sports or band events. We can't make it to all of them but we'd would LOVE to know what they have coming up so we can come if we can. Also, some of our youth might want to see those events and come support each other as well. We have some serious talent in this group!

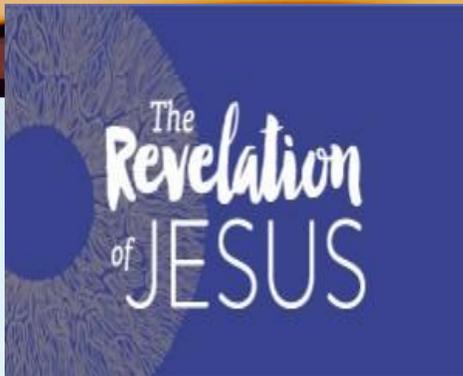
REVELATION:

a Glimpse of What's to Come

Week 1 ; A Peek into Heaven
Week 2 : Completely Worth It!
Week 3 : Handling Chaos
Week 4 : Wrath & Judgment Texts

Week 5 : Knowing Your Enemies
Week 6 : Jesus Revealed
Week 7 : What Heaven Is Like

Starts Sunday, August 21st



Most of us feel two ways about the Book of Revelation in the Bible: We're afraid of it and we're intrigued by it. We fear its images of beasts and dragons and plagues, and wonder how it could contain anything encouraging or even comprehensible; and yet we're drawn to it, hoping to understand its mysteries. In this series we look at some highlights of the Book of Revelation--including glimpses of heaven, the future, and God's plan for the whole world. This is one series you don't want to miss. You'll find your horizons broadened, your joy deepened, and your heart encouraged! Invite some friends to join you for this seven week study beginning August 21st.

Financial News

Online giving available at

www.greenbrierfumc.org/online-giving

Summertime has put us a little behind in regards to our Operating Budget but that is not unusual. Don't forget if you do miss a Sunday you can give online!

Here is where we stand at the first of August:

OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2016	\$193,796.00
NEEDED TO DATE	\$119,259.08
GIVING AS OF AUGUST 7, 2016	\$113,740.09
DEFICIT TO DATE	-\$5,518.99

We are also getting excitingly close to paying off the new parsonage. As of the first of August we owe \$1350.71. We have one payment the first of September of \$909 and half a payment (\$460) on the first of October and then we will have the parsonage paid in full! Great work church!

Long Range Planning continues their work this month with meetings each Sunday in August. If you are interested in where we are in the process or have some input for the committee please feel free to contact Rebecca Mills. We are hoping to have a document ready for the church's consideration by our Charge Conference date in November. We will be having another round of conversations with the congregation again soon. Please keep the work of this committee in your prayers.



We did it.... a 30 foot long banana split constructed in 4:12 and eaten much faster!

Miscellaneous Announcements

- **BLOOD DRIVE – TUESDAY, AUGUST 30th** from 3-7 pm in Wilson Fellowship Hall. Sign up sheet for volunteers to work or bring refreshments is located on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. Donors can go to REDCROSS.ORG on the day of the drive and fill out a rapid pass. This gives you an opportunity to answer questions online and print out a rapid pass which cuts down on the donors wait time tremendously. Contact Rhonda Garrett with any questions. At 679-1769.
- **During August, the Elementary Sunday School** class is continuing to learn about each of the fruits of the Spirit from the Deep Blue program. “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23). Kudos to Jim Kirk for teaching this class.
- A big, big, big **THANKS** to everyone who brought items for **Operation Christmas Child, Christmas in July**. Keep collecting health care items, school supplies, socks, hats, gloves, small toys, etc. We will begin putting together the shoeboxes at the end of October.
- Huge **THANK YOU** to the Alpha Sunday school class for giving \$50 for **blessing bags**. I was able to buy 50 very useful items at Dollar Tree (primarily hygiene items.) Also the Betty Welch class donated \$50 for blessing bags. as well. This will be quite valuable as we approach fall. Thanks to your generosity there are now 25 more blessing bags in the hallway ready to be passed out to those in need. Pick one up this Sunday and keep it in your car and look for someone to bless! Thanks to Cassidy Broadway for continuing to guide this ministry.

- 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 continue on **Monday, August 15th**.
- **Bethlehem House Meal is Thursday, August 25th at 6:00 p.m.** If you would like to help serve our monthly meal to the hungry, hurting and homeless in Conway, be sure and be at the house this coming Thursday. We always serve a wonderful Mexican themed meal. If you have a favorite Mexican casserole you would like to fix or a dessert have it to the church by 5:00 p.m. on that day. It is a great ministry and a tremendous way to minister to those in need.
- We are looking for three good women and three good men from GreenbrierFUMC to be part of the **Walk to Emmaus** spiritual retreat this fall. The dates for the fall walks are: **Men’s Walk - September 22-25** and the **Women’s Walk on October 20-23**. The cost of the weekend is \$160.00 but we can find scholarship money to offset a good portion of that fee if necessary. We need to send in the applications by the end of this month. If you are interested in going please talk to the pastor or Carolyn Baker this week.

Our New Wednesday Night Program for our Elementary Kids!



Coming September 7th

For our Discovery Club Kids on Wednesday nights @ 6:30 p.m.

We will be starting something different for our kids on Wednesday nights as we begin an eight week **Journey to the Center of the Earth**. We will be using a new type of curriculum called ELEVATE which we think the kids will love. During our journey we will discover a real treasure, the Bible and learn how to apply it to our lives. Bro. Kevin will be taking this eight week journey with our kids and wants to invite all of our kids to join him on this adventure.

They will learn to look to the Bible for answers in their daily life, to never give up in doing right, to trust God to provide for our needs and to be the kind of person that God can depend on.

If you would like to help Bro. Kevin or join us for this eight week journey contact Dianna Prout and let her know your backpack is ready to go!

