

A Red Bird's Note in Thousandsticks

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Robert Amundsen Jr., Pastor



GREETINGS FROM THE AMUNDSEN'S

Dear friends,

As you can tell we have a new look for our Red Bird's Note. I apologize that it has taken so long to get our new newsletter out to everyone. We hope that this will keep you updated on what is taking place here in our lives, the work here at Thousandsticks, and the work of the Red Bird Missionary Conference.

We thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts as we continue to minister to the people of Thousandsticks and Leslie County. We have been truly blessed by a wonderful congregation and great community to be in.

We hope that you will stay in touch with us and want to visit and be a part of the ministry that is taking place here in the Heart of Appalachia.

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Amundsen's in Frankfort

One of the biggest event for our family this year, so far, has been our trip to the State Capital in Frankfort, Kentucky. On March 9th, Robert had the opportunity to open the State General Assembly in prayer. This was a great honor for Robert to do. The greater joy for our family was that Jordyn was able to serve as a Personal Page for our State Representative, Tim Couch. Jordyn still has a desire and heart for politics, even at his young age, and this opportunity made his day. We were also able to visit with our State Senator, Brandon Smith and to tour the Capitol

Building.



Upcoming Events

- ◆ June Work-teams
- ◆ VBS
- ◆ July Work-teams

Academic Team Again

Jordyn was once again blessed to be a part of the Academic Team for Mountain View Elementary School. Jordyn placed 1st in Social Studies and Arts and Humanities in the District. This allowed him to go to Regionals, where he placed 2nd in Social Studies and 6th in Arts and Humanities. We are very proud of Jordyn and his Academic achievements. His team was a great group of young people and look forward

to seeing what they can do in the future.



UMC Cross & Flame Emblem at Sebring 1st UMC.



Update on Shirley & Robert

As 2012 began, Shirley was still blessed to be teaching Early Childhood Development for Red Bird at the Big Creek Center. Shirley has enjoyed teaching her 3-4 year olds for the last 3 years. She also leads our Kids For Christ children's ministry here at Thousandsticks as well as teaches the 3 year old Sunday School class.

Robert has been his busy self being involved in everything coming and

going. Robert is still involved in the community with the local Fire Department, Chaplaincy at the local hospital, local ministerial association, substitute teaching both in Leslie Co. Schools and at Red Bird, High School Softball & Volleyball officiating, helping in Little League, coaching an AAU basketball team, and Cub Scouts. Not to mention the different Committees within the Red Bird Conference and Southeast Jurisdiction.

“Work-teams and visitors are welcome year round.”

Kids For Christ (KFC) Kids Club

Every Sunday afternoon from 4-5 pm, the church is alive with the sound of children at KFC. Each week, we try to bring the Gospel message to our kids in an interactive way. As we meet, we sing songs with the kids. Currently, we are working on the songs for Vacation Bible School. We also have a story from the Bible geared towards their ages, an activity of some kind to tie in with everything, and a meal. The meal is not just a snack but something filling. We

also allow them an opportunity to play out on the playground area when the weather is appropriate. This year, due to the extended summer break from school, we will be having KFC during the week, either Tuesday or Thursday, to help parents with an opportunity to be able to do something they need to do while the kids are able to learn about God. If you are interested in helping this ministry, please email or call Pastor Robert or Shirley about this ministry.

Summer Work-Teams

Each summer, we are truly blessed to have a handful of churches come and do summer work projects from here at Thousandsticks. This year, as of this writing, we are expecting two weekend teams and two week-long teams. The teams this year are coming from Tennessee and New Jersey. We are blessed to have had other groups from places like Georgia and here in Kentucky in the past. We still have

some projects available and are always willing to host teams year-round. If you are interested in coming and bringing a work-team or just to visit Thousandsticks and Red Bird, please email or call Pastor Robert for information.

Feed Leslie County's Kids

With the end of the school year here in Leslie County having been May 4th, the earliest it has let out in years, and school not scheduled to start back until August 13th; there is a concern in the community about children in families who have low incomes and who received free or reduced lunches at school. Thousandsticks UMC is one of the several churches in the county to partner together to help meet the need

of the children this summer. We are asking folks to bring in individual servings of items for children this summer. The list of items is available both in print and via email. Please contact Pastor Robert for how you can help.

New Sign for Thousandsticks

The Administrative Board of Thousandsticks UMC discussed having a sign made that could be seen from the Hal Rogers Parkway, which runs in front of the church property. It was decided to have a metal sign made in the symbol of the Red Bird Conference of the United Methodist Church. There for the Cross & Flame w/ the Cardinal on it. (See the photo to the right) The local vocational school was contacted about

constructing such a sign. The new sign is complete with the 1st coat of Metal Primer on it. It will stand approximately 8 ft. tall. The church is now in the process of working on getting the sign painted and a new concrete pad poured for the base of the sign and for a solar light to be attached so that the sign can be lit at night. This is a joy for the church to be able to get this done.



Red Bird Conference Symbol on the New Wings for Red Bird Plaque.

Red Bird Conference News

As I write this newsletter, this is an exciting yet troublesome time in the Red Bird Missionary Conference. On May 18-19, the Red Bird Missionary Annual Conference was held at the Beverly UMC. Annual Conference is always an exciting and joyous time. Unfortunately, this year for the 1st time, a budget was not presented before the body. Due to several factors over the last decade-plus, deficit budgets had been passed in hopes that things would improve. Unfortunately since 9/11, this was not the case. Donations to the conference have decrease due to other events that have taken place. Things like Hurricane Katrina, the economic recession, and severe storms in our nation and world have led to funding going away from Red Bird. This has led to the current financial situation we are facing. There is hope for the future. With new strategic planning, new fundraising opportunities, like *Wings for Red Bird*, and challenges to our churches; we are hopeful to come out

of this crisis in the next several years.

As some of you may have learned before the end of 2011, there are changes to how the Advance will work and how it affects us here in Red Bird. Due to the changes, the individual Advance Special numbers will be done away with. Because so many churches relate with individual missionaries, like ourselves, Red Bird has responded with individual support numbers through the Conference office. It is still our understanding that churches will receive 5-star giving credit if they send their support directly from their churches or their conference to Red Bird instead of the GBGM. If you are a supporting church or individual and would like more information on this, please contact Pastor Robert or call the Red Bird Missionary Conference office at 606-598-5915 and ask for Conference Treasurer - Judy Fowler.



Bishop Lindsey Davis, Rev Steven Riddle (New RBMC Pastor), Rev. Kevin Baker, Robert, Rev. Farley Stuart Conference Superintendent



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Christ in the Heart
of Appalachia**

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Are You Looking for your blessings?

Recently we wrapped up our Annual Conference. The theme was *Look for the Blessing*. During the roll call on Saturday morning, I answered "Still looking for the blessing." I failed to remember that there were plenty of blessings in the room as well as within my church family. How often do we find ourselves over-looking the blessings that are before us? I want to encourage us to think about how many blessings we have, how many we have missed and how many we may be forgetting? I decided to look back at our last three Annual Conference's for some direction.

Look for the Blessing was this year's theme. We were challenged to look for the blessings around us. Do we know them when we see them? In Acts 1:3-11, the Angels asked the Disciples why they were still looking for Christ? The reminder in that for us, is that we don't need to be looking for Christ because we are the body of Christ and we are to be sharing Him with the world. Right before the Ascension, He told the Disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit. Are we still waiting for the Spirit or are we holding it back?

One Person, One Mission, One Kingdom was our theme two years ago and we were reminded about it this year. Many

of us may think we can't make a difference by ourselves but we can. As one person at Conference said, "If you don't think you can make a difference, then you've never spent the night sleeping with a mosquito." Have we ever considered that our mission for the Kingdom may provide a blessing to someone looking for Christ?

To God Be the Glory was our theme three years ago. As we go each day, either looking for or sharing our blessing; we need to remember each day the one to whom we give all the praise. God has sent each of us the Holy Spirit so we can go and make a difference in our mission fields around us. Let us be the vessels of the Gospel, living and sharing the Word everywhere we go.

I challenge each of us to look for our blessings, to count them, & to give thanks to God. Sometimes we may not feel like we have many or that we can be a blessing but let God work through you. Bishop Davis shared with us about his wife's grandmother, who was bedridden and blind. She asked why she was still here. All she could do was pray. When we allow God to work through us it's amazing what blessings there are for us and others. Go be the one person on a mission for the Kingdom & in all things give God all the Glory.

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