

River News

MAY

2019

What an exciting time we had finishing Lent and entering into a glorious Easter. Many of us focused on loving our neighbors by pulling one item a day from our possessions, gathering the 40+ items into bags and donating the bags to a charity. Many of us donated the items to our yard sale and spent time sorting all of them to make it easier for people to discover new treasures. One of our greatest strengths here at Little River UMC is gathering together to accomplish something. The Spring Yard Sale provides the opportunity for people to use physical, organizational, and cooking talents. When we combine those talents with lots of smiles and generosity, our Little River team spirit overflows with lots of fun!

As you know we started the year off at \$0 finances, being a non-profit organization, and yet there are bills to pay in January and February for the church as well as individual bills to pay for Christmas gifts. This year especially our finances have been tight. Everyone is being careful to save money. The Trustees, who are in charge of the Spring Yard Sale, decided to donate the entire proceeds of the yard sale to the general budget (over \$5,000) and we have recently received an outside gift of \$1,000, so our general budget account is looking better, although still in arrears. I am convinced that since we are doing what God wants us to do, he will provide all that we need. That includes people as well as finances. God moves on the hearts of his faithful children to support his church so that we can pay all of our bills and minister to those God brings our way. Thank you all for your generosity so far this year.13

I want to thank Levada Eller and Jessica Porter for preaching for me while we were on vacation. What a joy for me to know that the sermon time is in such good hands. This Sunday, Memorial Day, I asked my husband, Rich, to preach for me, and I will lead worship. He is a trained lay speaker and needs opportunities to preach to maintain his skills. I hope to encourage everyone who would like to learn how to preach, both to share ideas with them, and to give them opportunities to improve their skills. Please let me know if you would like the opportunity to preach, and we can talk about it. My greatest desire is to help everyone learn what their Spiritual Gifts are and to give them opportunities to use their special gifts.

Look forward to a wonderful summer of worship, starting with Memorial Day, and then Pentecost, Father's Day, and Fourth of July. Also we have special events like Adventure Camp, Vacation Bible School, Family Fun Day, and Homecoming, which is the third Sunday in July. God is moving among us, and it is exciting.

- Pastor Gale



Drawing for
3 Lucky
Winners

Prize: Free Meal the
following week!

Wednesday
Night
MEALS

Returning
this fall.

6:15PM

We have just finished this season for meals and will be back in September. We try to have good meals each week and we need you to come and support us by buying meals. We pay for all paper towels, toilet paper, paper goods, soap, coffee, tea, etc for the church. This helps our church budget. We pay for other things too. We furnish meals for Christ's Kids and the Youth Group. We have three fundraiser nights each year – one for VBS to pay for food each night; one for Camp Glisson to help defray expenses for any youth who want to go from our church, and Boy Scout night which goes to them to pay for their needs. The Kitchen Crew is there each week by four or earlier to prepare the meal, serve, and then clean up. We hope you have enjoyed the meals and will encourage others to come next season. Our Kitchen Crew is Gail O, Rosalee Little, Tom Walbeck, Teresa and David Bailey. We also have Pat Andre, baker; Sandra Wehunt, cashier, Sam McCleskey on grill nights and as needed; and Bill Goddard & Eddie Watkins on country fried steak night.

- Gail O.

APRIL 2019 BBQ DINNER / YARDSALE FUNDRAISER

We have one big fundraiser in April each year. This year the weather was perfect, and we had a great day. After expenses, we made \$5,200.00 which is great. Thank all of you who helped in any way to make it a success – so many did so much! We especially want to thank Jeremy Vanderberg for cooking the BBQ and Dawn Thorpe for selling over 100 tickets. - Gail O.

Churchwide
YARD SALE

United Methodist
MEN

Our UMM have been busy since April with a bowling outing, preparation of a Souper Sunday with help from the ladies, and major assistance with the Church Yard Sale set-up/breakdown. The men are making birdhouses the second Sunday in June for potential sale at a silent auction at their annual golf outing located at Chateau Elan. Proceeds will go to the pediatric brain cancer foundation. Every little bit helps. They currently have 6 active men and more are welcome! – Bob Hirsch 2019 UMM President -





Mothers, Daughters, Friends
The 2019 Mother-Daughter- Special Friends Banquet was held on Friday, May 10th, and was once again an evening enjoyed by all! This event has been sponsored by our United Methodist Women (UMW) for many years, and for the second year, it was held at the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce.



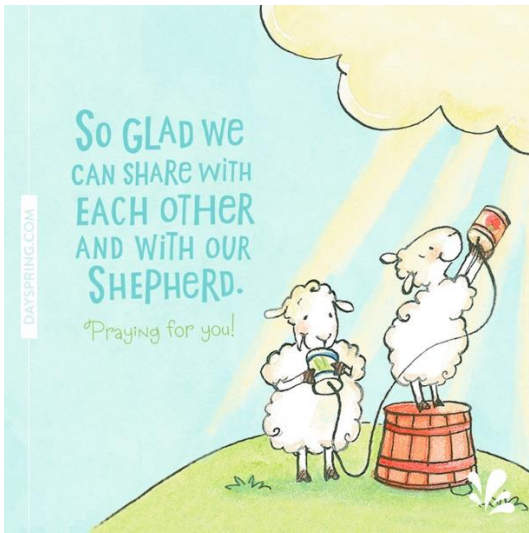
Everyone who attends looks forward to it each year. From the valet parking, to the beautifully decorated tables and stunning ladies, to a delicious meal catered by Longhorns, to the wonderful entertainment and fellowship... it is truly a special occasion. We had 65 ladies and 5 young ladies in attendance plus the guys who helped in the



kitchen, serv-ed the ladies, and parked the cars. It was truly a special night!



Thanks to everyone who came together to honor our special ladies.
– Paula Goddard
UMW President 2019



Monday Morning Prayer Group

The MMPG continues to meet every Monday @ 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We are happy to report we have sent 350 plus cards year to date. We are very thankful for all the support the Church family gives us. Almost every week someone contributes cash, cards or stamps to the group. Most of all we appreciate your prayers and concerns for those in need. We solicit your continued support and prayers as we continue to try to do what the Lord has asked us to do. You may contact Jenny @ 770.926.3172 or Sandra @ 770.926.3595. You can email Sandra @ SandraWehunt1@yahoo.com. God Bless.

United Methodist Women Day Circle

The LRUMC UMW Tuesday Morning Circle continues their commitment to mission. In April, we met in the church kitchen to prepare both vegetable beef and chicken tortilla soup for caregivers who spend much of their days traveling back and forth to hospitals and nursing facilities. We all know how exhausting it is to care for others. Sometimes caregivers are just too tired to care for themselves. Seven of us gathered to make this gift



of love for our congregation or those in the community who need a bit of TLC while caring for others. The soup is stored in the kitchen freezer in individual containers. Please feel welcome to take one, two or a few to share and make someone's load a bit lighter – and tastier.



VBS 2019
Little River UMC
June 24-28
6:00 - 8:30 PM
FREE Dinner - T-Shirt Optional \$
Click here to register or volunteer.

CHRIST Kids

What a whirl this past Spring has been! It feels just like yesterday we were taking down the Christmas tree and unwrapping the kids. Yes, we have had a great time this 2018-2019 school year with a great group of kids. We've learned a lot about Jesus' love for us, serving our community, and learning about those who serve in ministry across the world.

Our children are eager to learn, eager to sing praises to the Lord, and eager to have a good time! Some children are Little River regulars, and some are neighborhood regulars from VBSs gone by. We've averaged 15 children each week, and we have 3 wonderful ladies who volunteer week in and week out. Thank you so much Sally, Leslie, & Paula! These kids love you to the moon! May the Lord bless you for helping plant these most important seeds into these little hearts. – Jessica Porter

Youth & Children's Minister



The Community Easter Egg Hunt was a wild success, and only because the Lord is Good! If anyone recalls the weekend of Easter, or really most of the Spring, it entailed a whole lot of RAIN! Nearly 120 children and families poured into the Little River sanctuary at 10:50 AM, and yes, the volunteers and staff were beginning to panic. No one wants to pick up 10,000 eggs after you've 'hid' them. 5 children multiplying in 5 minutes to a church full of families was an amazing site! The rain drizzled all morning, but we held a dry hunt, and an indoor egg cracking and cupcake palooza! What a great way to show love to the families in our community. Thank you so much to the 2 dozen volunteers that arrived to work in the rain. May God continue to bless our local children through our church this Summer. Will you consider volunteering for VBS? – Jessica P. 404-217-3158





The INCREDIBLES have been very busy during April and May. On April 9th, Kevin Lovell from MASA Global Insurance gave an inspiring program regarding cost of Air Flight transports

MASAGLOBAL™

during a time of crisis. He pointed out how little our insurance pays for this service. Breakfast was served compliments of Kevin. We all learned a lot and enjoyed our food. On April 16th, we met at Chick-fil-a for our monthly breakfast.

A fun time with lots of good conversation and good food was enjoyed by everyone. On May 7th, we were entertained by the Handbell choir from Cartersville. It was a good time with lots of food and fellowship. On May 14th, we had our monthly breakfast at Chick-fil-a.

As usual the food and fellowship were great. On May 21st, we visited Paradise



Gardens in Summerville, GA. The museum is a tribute to Howard Fenster and his life. It is a quiet and peaceful place to visit. We had lunch at The Crushed Tomato in their town. We enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship around the table. On the way home, we made an unexpected stop at a Strawberry Patch where we all enjoyed homemade Strawberry Ice Cream.

It was a fun day. We are very grateful to have Rich as our driver. The new van is wonderful. We plan to rest some this summer except for our regular monthly breakfast; however, if anyone has a suggestion for a day trip, let us know. We will try our best to make it happen. You may contact Pat @ 678.938.5235, Jenny @ 770.926.3172 or Sandra 770.926.3595. You can email Sandra @ Sandrawehunt1@yahoo.com. Come join us on June 11th for our breakfast at Chick-fil-a.



June 4 & 18 July 9 & 23

\$10/person/event

Includes:

T-shirt – Transportation – Lunches – Snacks

Lots of Fun!

Contact Pastor Gale to sign-up kids or chaperones.



News from the Trail

Good Day! It's been some time since we last talked. Pull up a log, join us at the campfire, and let us share our latest news with you. As my friend the dishwasher might say, "The Scouts have been too quiet. They are up to something." I've always appreciated the remarkable insight of someone who can switch a conversation from empty salt shakers to foreign policy in a single breath, so it goes without saying — he's right — we have been up to something.

Several major changes have occurred in the Boy Scouting Program this year. There has been an official name change of the program to Scouts BSA. The second is a new rank, Lions, for kindergarten age children. The third, and largest, change has been a change in policy to admit girls into the Cub Scouting and Scouting programs. While many of you might recoil at the

thought, rest assured that the program has the boys and girls separate while delivering the same iconic program that has been delivered for over a hundred years. The main difficulty in the program this year has been adapting to new youth protection training and the space required by the inclusion of additional Cub Scout dens required for the girls that are participating. Does this mean that the Girl Scouts are going away? **No!** In fact, our Girl Scout Troops have been even more visible this year and have been **extremely** active in the community. Without further delay, here some highlights of what our Scouts have been doing:

Cub Scout Pack 625

- Trail cleanup and maintenance at Arnold Mill Elementary.
- Spring Campout at Banning Mills where they participated in a ropes course for confidence building.
- Summer Campout on the USS Yorktown in Charleston SC.
- Pack Graduation just occurred, where all Scouts completed their achievements and were eligible to be promoted to their next rank.

Troop 625

- TWO new Eagle Scouts—Daniel Arce and Andrew George.
- Preparing to leave for summer camp at Rainey Mountain in Clayton Ga. They would like to thank the church for their support at the last Wednesday night meal, and the funds will be used towards supplies for camp.
- Completed a special project for the Cemetery Committee to remove several trees ranging from 8 to 15 feet while maintaining and protecting existing monuments. This would have normally required hiring a crew and special handling techniques for the removal of the trees costing several hundred dollars.

- Recently returned from a shooting sports weekend in Talking Rock GA. This allowed many of the Scouts to work on the Rifle and Shotgun merit badges.
- Have been diligently training and working with the Cub Scout Pack and Troop 1208 to pass along essential Scout Skills. Two Scouts, Devron and Michael, have been working over a year with the Cub Scouts as Den Chiefs. This long-term project has a huge impact as the Cubs advance into the Scouting program as they already have advanced leadership skills at a much younger age.

Troop 1208

This might be the best open secret at the church. Troop 1208 was born this spring and is the first new Scouts BSA unit at the church in over 40 years. The unit is currently composed of 7 girls who have set very high goals for themselves. The Scoutmaster, Angela Greenwell, is an excellent role model for the girls and has climbed Mt. Ranier, hiked the Patagonian desert, and is an avid kayaker. By the time that you read this, the troop will have completed its first campout, elected its first patrol leaders, and built its first campfire. They are being mentored by Stephen Whitney, Scoutmaster for Troop 625 as well as the older Scouts from Troop 625. Troops 1208 and 625 are currently supported by an experienced Troop Committee under the leadership of Tina Scott.



Troop 14665

- Collected 159 pairs of pajamas to donate to the Bethany Place Shelter in May.
- Collected 19,610 aluminum tabs for recycling to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.
- Collecting toiletry items as part of a project to benefit Papa's Pantry in Woodstock for the fall.

Packed and ready to go!



Troop 16397

- Went to a local Nursing home to earn their Social Butterfly badge. The girls worked on a list of questions, learned how to introduce themselves, and to be active listeners. They met some lovely people and heard some wonderful stories .

- Troop 16397 attended a meet and greet with the Woodstock Mayor and City Council on March 11th and then attended the Council meeting that evening to hear the Proclamation of Girl Scout Week, March 10-16, 2019, as read by Mayor Donnie Henriques.
- In March the Troop visited iFly Atlanta for an hour-long STEM lesson tied to aerodynamics, energy, the science of skydiving as well as the iFly set-up/technology and more. Then, got to experience first hand what skydiving feels like!



Troop 14612

- The Girls hosted a town hall meeting held May 2 at Hickory Flat United Methodist Church. They made a menu, created a grocery list, created center pieces, prepared the food, arranged it and served it, and did all the clean up. The



meeting was about having more available community opportunities for adult men/women with special needs.



- The Girls have weeded, worked the ground, added dirt and fertilizer, watered, planted and created a vegetable garden at the Church that they will continue to maintain. They are earning their Bronze Award, the 3rd highest award for Girl Scouts, by working together and with the Church's support on this community service project. Tom Walbeck has been serving as their mentor and advisor for this project.

• The entire Troop participated in an Escape tactics at Taekwondo of Woodstock, 110 Londonderry Ct, Ste 136B, Woodstock. They learned how to "get away and run" if they were ever attempted to be grabbed or kidnapped by a stranger. They learned it isn't about fighting back, it is about freeing yourself, running and yelling "Mom and Dad!" They practice numerous scenarios with adults using basic tactics that work regardless of size and strength. Maddie, Violet, Amelia, Sammi, Nia, Phoebe, Nevaeh, and Ashland have grown together this year and their leader, Ms. Cindy Jacobs, is very proud of all they have accomplished together.



In closing I would like to share a few thoughts and facts with you. We now have **7 Scout units** at Little River UMC. To put that in perspective, we are just behind some of the Methodist Mega Churches who have 8—10 units, **and we have the most units of any church in Cherokee and Pickens counties.** We've grown the Scouts BSA program by one unit, and we are the first church that the Girl Scouts from the local service unit call when they need a meeting location.



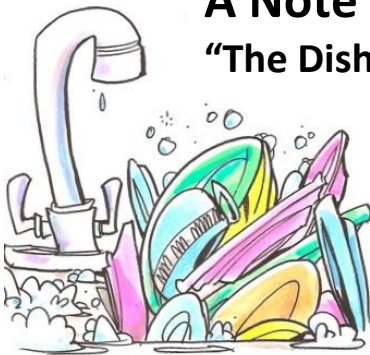
Pastor Bill used to refer to the Scouts as the “unseen church”, and in many ways he is correct. I hope that my occasional article has helped you, the congregation, with a window into some of the good that I get to see every day as a Scout leader. I also hope that you are left with some confidence that there are young people here that will make a difference in the future. I, in fact, picked up 2 Eagle Scout medals for a pair of them yesterday.

This, of course, brings us back to our Dishwasher. While some of you might question some of his methods, wisdom, or his ability to field strip and clean one of the infamous “soaker” pans left over on Wednesday nights, I never do. If you looked closely at his last appearance before riding off into the sunset (at the annual Scout Night) he was also wearing a familiar looking khaki shirt. I wonder if there is a dishwashing merit badge?

Yours in Scouting,

David K. Bailey, Scouting Ministry Specialist

A Note from “The Dishwasher”



I have gone fishing with my best friend for the season off.
- The Dishwasher



Methodist Melodies

We've added a pianist and a guitarist, a tenor and another alto. If there is another pianist that has an interest in joining our merry band of 22 please contact me. - Bob Hirsch
770-344-8763



Hats Off to the Grads!

David Bailey II, son of David and Teresa Bailey, made the Dean's List this semester at Kennesaw State University where he has just completed his freshman year.



Emily Fedrigan, daughter of Tim and Sally Fedrigan, made the Dean's List again this semester at the University of Illinois. ->

Jeremy Fedrigan, son of Tim & Sally Fedrigan, also made the Dean's list again this semester and is graduating from Clemson University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He will be joining the Disney college program in Orlando. ->



<- **Emily Elizabeth Harvill**, granddaughter of Tom and Dawn Thorpe, is graduating from River Ridge High School with honors. She is going to attend KSU for two years and then go to UGA. She wants to be a Veterinarian.

Sean Holcomb, granddaughter of Bob and Eileen Hirsch, graduated from the University of Delaware with a 4.0

GPA. Next, she is going to study for her Doctoral degree in Education at the University of Utah. ->



<- **Heidi King**, daughter of Pam & Scott King, granddaughter of Gail O., had her pinning ceremony at Mercer University Doctor of Pharmacy School Monday, May 6. She will now be on rotation for a year serving her internship at various

hospitals in this area and starts at the main Emory University Hospital in Atlanta on Monday.

Oscar King, son of Pam & Scott King, grandson of Gail O., graduated from North Georgia University with a B.S. degree in Mathematics with a minor in Statistics on May 3. He will be working at Camp Glisson again this summer. He plans to go to Graduate school next year.

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<- **Rachel Leary**, granddaughter of Pat Andre, graduated from Liberty University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Rachel can't wait to see what the future holds but for now she is going to study for her Master's Degree.

Anna Elizabeth Long, -> granddaughter of Jimmy Long and the great-granddaughter of Odie Mae Long, is graduating from Kell High School and will be attending University of Florida to study Environmental Science.



<- **Dylan McCleskey**, son of Mary & Jason McCleskey, grandson of Sam McCleskey, is graduating from Sequoyah High School.

Jeremy Ryan McKinney, grandson of Carl & Dorothy McKinney, is graduating from Grovetown High school in Grovetown, GA on May 24th. He will be heading out in the wild blue yonder by joining the Air Force. ->



<- **Ryan Thomas Martin** grandson of Julie Long, is graduating from Etowah High School and will be attending Kennesaw University to Study Architecture.



Jason Porter, brother-in-law of Jessica Porter, graduated from River Ridge High School and will be attending KSU to study Economics. ->



<- **Emily Singleton**, granddaughter of Carl & Dorothy McKinney, is graduating from Grovetown High school in Grovetown, GA on May 24th. She has chosen to attend Erskine College of Due West, SC and will play on the Women's soccer team while studying Pre-Med.

Jennifer Thaxton, Tyler Vanderberg's fiancé (Gail O.'s grandson's fiancé) (top left in photo), is graduating from Kennesaw State University School of Nursing and had her pinning ceremony as an RN May 4 and will be working at a hospital in Macon. ->

