Getting Ready for Vacation Bible School

Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School where kids will discover they’re lovingly crafted by God. On this interactive adventure, curious kids become hands-on inventors and experience God - the ultimate Maker - in new and wildly creative ways! Registration has started! Go to http://greenestreetumc.org/whats-happening/events for registration, t-shirt orders, and volunteer registration. Contact Jenny Sweetman (773-5313 or Jennifer@greenestreetumc.org) if you have further questions.

June 25—29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Ages 3yrs—6th grade

Registration and T-shirt order form available on-line at www.greenestreetumc.org

While supplies last, each pre-registered family will receive this year’s VBS Music.

Items to Donate:
* ALL Brightly Colored
* "Solo" plates
* Cheap tablecloths
* Plastic Slinkies
* Poster Boards

Volume 63
Issue 6
June

2017
Greetings Greene Street!

By the time you read this, my family and I will finally be residents of Piqua! We are excited to get settled in and to dig in to the community here.

This summer in worship we are going to be exploring the Gospel of Matthew. From June until Labor Day, we will work our way through the entire book. Our hope for this series is that if you haven’t dug in and read the Gospels, that this summer will be your time. Along the way we are going to encourage you to share with us what you are discovering and how God is speaking to you through the Gospel of Matthew.

As many of you know, I have spent time over the past four months getting to know as many of you as possible. One way we have accomplished this is through what we have called “Cottage Meetings”. These were gatherings that ranged from 8 folks up to 25 in a single meeting. We had young kids, teens, adults and older adults participate. The range also included folks who have only been around for a year or two and folks who have been around for decades. I thought I would share some key findings with you. At every meeting we asked the same four questions:

1. What do we do well as a church?
2. What is the greatest challenge or opportunity facing this church over the next 24 months?
3. How has this church helped you grow spiritually?
4. If you could ask for a miracle for our church, what would it be?

There were many things that people feel we do well as a church; those that came up most often were: Chrysalis, being a source of community, our childcare center and the food pantry. Indeed, these are all vital components of our church.

The challenges named most often included: finances and continuing to meet and/or exceed our budget, fulfilling our Capital Campaign, continued growth and a willingness to continue to make changes in order to grow. There has been a tremendous amount of great ministry in the most recent season of this church, my takeaway regarding the challenges moving forward is that Greene Street church wants to continue to grow and reach people for Jesus.

When discussing spiritual growth at our church, the one aspect that came up all of the time was Community. Between Sunday School classes and folks who have done life together, there is among many folks here a sense of belonging and community that has aided in spurring on spiritual growth. The key is to continue to find ways to get folks engaged in community, ministry and discipleship. Out of this conversation regarding spiritual growth came many conversations about how we can implement a discipleship pathway.

Finally, the question was asked, what kind of miracle would you want for this church. The answers ranged from additional parking to more kids in the building. But the number one answer was simply to see the church continue to grow. There is a real hunger at this church to grow in faith and to share that faith with our community.

Will you join me in praying for some of the challenges and hopes that our church has expressed? Pray for a season of individual and corporate spiritual growth. Pray for our Capital Campaign and all of the work that has gone into getting it off the ground and all the work that is yet to come. Pray for our church that we continue to find ways to extend ourselves into the community. Pray that we construct a discipleship pathway so we can help our folks grow and folks who have not yet joined us grow as well. Finally, join me in thanking God for all of the good work that has been going on here for years and is still going on in and around our church.

I am grateful to be serving in ministry with you in this season.

Peace,

Will Leasure
Lead Pastor, Greene Street UMC
revwill@greenestreetumc.org
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE**

Our mid-week ministry program has ended for the summer and will resume in mid to late September. During 2016-2017 the children have learned about many different ways and reasons to pray and have experienced how easy it is to pray anytime and anywhere! A variety of prayer activities and prayer stations were enjoyed by children in grades 1-6. In addition to presenting the Christmas Musical, “Jesus Means Christmas To Me”, the students were also willing and hard workers when given the following tasks: collecting coins to donate for the capital campaign, filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, making treats for our college students, welcoming the Leasure family, creating valentines for our friends in care facilities, planting flowers for Mother’s Day, and putting together treats for Father’s Day and for our friends in the Military!

We celebrated a successful year with a walk to Susie’s Big Dipper for ice cream cones. ☺THANK YOU to a very talented and generous young lady... **Leanne Price**, one of our high school students, has volunteered every Wednesday night this year to help be an extra set of hands for our many projects and activities! We praise God for Leanne, who has been quite a blessing to us, and thank her for her extremely valuable gift of service!!

**KIDZ WORSHIP**

On Sundays during the 10:30 Unveiled Worship Gathering, children are excused before the sermon for Kidz Worship and may attend one of two classes: children age five through Second Grade meet in the ABC room off the corner of the Narthex, and students in 3rd through 6th grade meet upstairs off the balcony in room 24. This month our Bible study includes four stories of courage from the books of Acts, Esther, and Daniel. June's memory verse is: “Hope in the Lord! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the Lord!” (Psalm 27:14) Any child who memorizes the verse and recites it to Ms. Barb on Sunday mornings will earn a special prize!

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**Prayer Pretzels** During the first century AD, Christians prayed by folding their arms across their chests with each hand touching the opposite shoulder. A popular “Legend of the Pretzel” suggests that a clever Monk created a special treat by folding dough into a unique shape to look like arms folded in prayer. He named his creation pretiola, which in Latin means “little reward”. The simple shape of the pretzel reminds us to pray every day!

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**Ministries for Children**

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| June 4                | Barb Hudson | Linda Price  
| June 11               | Amberly Tauber | Mike Taylor  
| June 18               | Lindsay Lambert | Paul Miller  
| June 25               | Michelle Underwood | No class for 3-6  

Thank you to the following volunteers who so lovingly spend time with our children on Sunday mornings:
To You Who Contributed to our Student Mission Trip -

You may be someone who grabbed a handful of change from your pocket and dropped it into the buckets when they were passed. You may be someone who enjoyed the pinwheels enough to pass them or, on insure against them. You might be someone who bought subs for your superbowl party. Perhaps you are someone who gave anonymously because you didn’t want your gift to be about you. I also recognize that you may be someone who lifted up our students in prayer as often as you remembered them. We want to thank you for supporting us in our effort to go on mission to Gatlinburg, TN from June 11-17 this summer. For all of this support and more, we sincerely thank you!

It is because of your support, in whatever form you offer it, that you have opened up so many possibilities for us. You have made it possible for us to understand teamwork in a new and purposeful way. You have, by your support, shown us a way of living that is not like our own. This exposure will help share understanding, compassion and love not only for people like ourselves but also for people who live very differently than we do. Because of you, our comfort zones will be challenged. We will work hard, we will sweat, we will get hungry (and be fed) and we will appreciate the value of work done in service in the name of Jesus. For all of your contributions, we students will be empowered to be a force for good NOW and not someday in the future. You have placed in our hands, responsibility and ability to see a need and fill a need because of love. Most of all, you have enabled us an opportunity to build something; perhaps it’s a wheelchair ramp or a home for the homeless. Because of our building, we will have built for ourselves and a moment in time, just like the Israelites did in Joshua 4:20-24, a monument for a time that symbolizes God’s faithfulness in their own life.

Thank you from all of us to you for supporting us! It will be a fun trip but for all the fun it will be, it is an important trip for the faith of our future! You are a blessing!

With Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Chris and TEEM Student Ministry

PS - Please come to church on Sunday, June 25 for a special service led entirely by the TEEM Student Ministry to share about our experiences!
Gratitude

Answered Prayers from the Food Pantry

One of the things we do is to have a list of businesses that are hiring. A couple of people have been able to get jobs. Two people have been working as temps are now being hired on as permanent workers.

We have people in desperate situations with their living arrangements and with their health. Please pray that God will work in each situation to bring about a good outcome.

We had a lady whose children are being especially attentive to her needs. She asked that we pray and thank God for putting her on her children’s hearts.

We had a man ask that we pray for his nephews. He tried to give them good advice but they wouldn’t listen. One ended up in jail. Our young people have a lot of distractions to draw them away from God. We should pray for our youth every day that they will decided to follow Jesus.

There is power in prayer. Imagine what could happen if we had 50 or 100 people praying.

-Peggy Moorman

Recognition of Apportionments from both District and Conference levels.

From Shoebox Ministry:

*Victoria Phiri is the one who has received the shoe box from your church. She is very happy and thankful of the gift. She is a born again Christian of full gospel church of God in Malawi central Africa. Am her pastor writing (Kondwani Sibale)
Capital Campaign Update

Building Improvement Team

Our 2017 Building Improvement Team building exterior restoration activity has officially begun. Brian Bros Painting and Restoration began the work of improving the condition and appearance of our church on May 15, 2017. This activity will take approximately 10-12 weeks to complete, weather permitting. The work will include power washing, replacing damaged brick, tuck pointing, water table repair, caulking, painting, roof flashing removal and replacement and modification to the Education Building hand rail and planter wall. The overall project includes the Main Church, Education Building and the Courtyard area.

SAFETY is our #1 priority so please be careful while entering and leaving the facilities. Our contractor has set up orange pylons, yellow caution tape and placed signs to make all of us aware of the construction areas. If and when you are bringing children into the church, I strongly encourage you to be extra cautious of the children’s location.

As the building exterior is being improved, our team will be requesting updated quotations for the following proposed projects: 1) Refinishing of Caldwell St doors and repair/replacement of the stained glass 2) New replacement glass entrance doors into the church from Greene St to improve the safety when entering and leaving 3) Canopies at both entrances off of Greene and Caldwell Streets 4) New and improved exterior lighting at both entrances 5) Replacement of Wilson Hall windows 6) Communication Sign to be located at the corner of Greene and Caldwell Streets and 7) Removal and replacement of the existing landscaping.

All of the future projects will be prioritized based on the availability of our Campaign Funds and contractor’s schedules. We also wish to thank the congregation for their support as we continue to move forward in the improvement of our facilities. Our main focus continues to be the exterior of our building structures.

Thank you, Don Brown
Food and Hunger Team
The "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive was a success! Thanks to the generous community donations, our pantry shelves are stocked and full. This is timely - as school will be out soon and there is an increased demand over the summer months.

The drive was an all day event and required the help of many volunteers. We extend a sincere THANK YOU to: Joan Beck, Ginny Kaiser, Pat Helman, Robyn Cooper, Ed Ellis, Jessica Bates and Jeff Hall. We were also blessed to have support from Jenny Sweetman's Girl Scout Troop, Isaiah Industries, and the youth and parents from TEEM. Your willingness to help - especially on a Saturday before a holiday - was truly appreciated.

We also extend special thanks to the Postal carriers - who went the extra mile to collect and transport the food donations.

And God continues to bless . . . . We extend a big THANK YOU to our local Kroger. A few weeks ago the grocery manager mentioned to one of our team members that they freeze food about to go out of date and donate it. We are now on the list and have received our first donation of five very heavy totes of frozen meat. Thanks to the generosity of Kroger, our freezer is packed with everything from chicken to lamb to a pork shoulder, with lots of beef in between!

Safe Sanctuaries update:
We remember that Jesus was committed welcoming children in ministry. Our commitment to reducing the risk of abuse in the church for children and youth is one way that we live out Jesus’ act of love and abide by the teachings of Jesus. On April 10, 2017 our church adopted a new Safe Sanctuaries policy. We recently held our first training. Everyone who works with children, youth or vulnerable adults must complete this training. This includes Sunday School teachers, nursery workers, Vacation Bible School volunteers and others. Another training will be offered in June. Please watch your email for information!

MILITARY CARE PACKAGES
Military Care Packages will be packed and sent at the end of June. Please get military addresses (old & new) to the office (via connection card or email office@greenestreetumc.org) by June 18. Also start purchasing goodies for the boxes. There will be a donation box in the narthex.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY
Please mark Sunday, June 4th, on your calendars for Graduate Recognition Sunday at Greene Street! If you know someone who is graduating from high school, college, pre-school, or other institution of higher learning, please give their contact info to the church office. Pick up an information sheet to complete about the graduate, and we’d also love to have a photo!
We pray God’s comfort to be with:

- Family and friends of Kathy Schwaiger, who passed away 4/22.
- Family and friends of Jane Flitcraft, who passed away on Monday, May 1, 2017.
- Nancy Callison and family upon the death of her husband Dick on May 14, 2017.
- Harold Pummill (Doc) and family upon the death of his brother Cory Richard Newberry on May 19, 2017.

We pray God’s blessings upon:

- Birth of Theodore Alexander Farris to Steven & Katie Farris. 4/29/17
Sunday Schedules
9 a.m. Liturgical Worship
10:30 a.m. Unveiled Worship
4 p.m. TEEM
6 p.m. Ch. 5 Rebroadcast

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ALL CHURCH PICNIC!! SAVE THE DATE

When: Saturday, August 12, 2017 12-4pm
Where: Garbry Big Woods Reserve,
       6660 Casstown-Sidney Road, Piqua

What: An all church picnic to spend time with one another!
Each family is asked to bring a dish to share. We will have roast pork and fun and games! Please invite your family and friends. Everyone is invited! We have reserved all three shelters but you may want to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on!

Questions: Contact Pastor Chris