

A Red Bird's Note in Thousandsticks

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Robert Amundsen Jr., Pastor



GREETINGS FROM THE AMUNDSEN'S

Dear friends,

It has been almost a year since we shared our last update with you all in regards to the ministry taking place here in the mountains of Southeast Kentucky.

2015 was a great year in regards to our ministry here at Thousandsticks. We have been blessed in many ways and it's been a joy to help share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We hope as you read through our update that you can see what you are a part of as you partner in ministry with us.

Thank you for your prayers and your gifts as we minister together for the sake of Christ in the world.



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Easter
- ◆ Annual Conference
- ◆ Summer Work-teams

Update on Shirley & Robert

Since our last newsletter, Thousandsticks has been busy with activity and ministry for the Gospel. With things like work-teams, Charge Conference, Vacation Bible School and much more.

Shirley, began the year continuing her job with the Hazard Independent Schools but due to health issues had to resign from that position. Shirley now works at an Americorps Peer Mentor at Leslie County High School. She enjoys her new position as she helps students keep on task for school, sign up for ACT, and other school related activities. She continues to direct our Kids For Christ, Jr. Youth, and Youth ministries as well as VBS.

Robert continues to be involved in numerous things throughout the community. Robert still serves with the local volunteer fire dept., chair of the hospital advisory board, and as a high school volleyball and softball official as well as other things.

Robert also serves on several Conference committees and coordinates the Central Kingdom Covenant support Group & yearly Church Prayer Partner list for the Red Bird Missionary Conference. This year, Robert was elected to serve as the Alternate to General Conference and as the Jurisdictional Delegate.

Jordyn in Review

As the new school year is moving along, Jordyn is now 14 and a Freshman at Leslie County High School.

Jordyn is now getting ready for his 1st year on the High School Academic Team. He is preparing in his favorite subject area of Social Studie. Following Academic season, Jordyn is looking forward to playing baseball once again for the High School team. Jordyn is active in the church youth group and is

a youth representative to the church Ad Board. This coming June, Jordyn & Robert will be a part of the KY Annual Conference Mission Trip to Honduras.



ITINERATION

One of the great joys we have in the Red Bird Missionary Conference that most Conferences do not have is that we are able to visit and itinerate with churches and conferences that partner with us in ministry here.

This year, we were blessed to be able to do two weekend visits, one to Columbia, SC in August, the other in the Baypines District in the Alabama-West Florida Conference in October.

In South Carolina, we were blessed to visit once again at Lebanon UMC outside Columbia. We were blessed to a pizza dinner with several from the church on Saturday evening as well as a great opportunity to share on Sunday in Sunday School and Robert was given the opportunity to preach at the Morning

Worship Service, followed by a great Carry-in Potluck.

In Alabama, we visited our Partner District in the new Red Bird/Alabama-West Florida Partnership. Robert was invited to speak to a gathering of District pastors and mission persons at Robertsedale UMC on Saturday and on Sunday, Robert shared with combined Sunday School classes at Fairhope UMC.

While itineration can be tiring, it also allows us to do some sightseeing and gives us a chance to see areas where our partner churches are ministering to.

In the past, we have itinerated with partner churches in Florida and Michigan and look forward to getting back to visit with our many friends there soon.

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

Work-teams vital to the Thousandsticks ministry

One of our great blessings are the groups who decided to spend some of their summer working with us and our community here at Thousandsticks. Though we had one group unable to return, we were blessed with a couple of new groups and one that we have come to know for several years.

The projects this year ranged from new Porches, picnic shelters, porch roofs, painting, bathroom repairs, reorganization of the

community store, as well as repairs to the church and parsonage. We are working on work requests from throughout the community and are looking forward to groups that would like to come this year. We welcome groups year round.

This past year we were blessed for the groups from Warner Robbins, GA, Brewton, AL, East Ohio Annual Conference, and Waretown, NJ.



HONDURAS

In June, 2016, Robert and Jordyn will be a part of a Mission Team from the Kentucky Annual Conference to work in Honduras. This came about because of Jordyn's growing desire to learn and speak more Spanish from his Spanish class in High School. While in Honduras, the mission team will have the opportunity to help with Vacation Bible School. They will also have opportunities to help with the infrastructure of the village as they assist with the building of latrines and chimneys and the pouring of concrete floors. Jordyn and Robert are excited to have this opportunity to go and be a part of this team. The cost per person is \$2100. Jordyn and Robert are now starting their fundraising activities for this trip. If you would like to help them with their expenses, you may send donations to Robert, care of Thousandsticks UMC, 95 Red Bird Road Thousandsticks, KY 41766. Most of all, Robert and Jordyn ask that you keep them in your prayers as they prepare themselves for this great ministry opportunity.



Cherokee Woodcutting Work-Camp

In November, A group of 8 people (2 Adults and 6 Youth) travelled to Cherokee, NC for the Annual Woodcutting Work-Camp. This was a great experience for the group as only 1 was new to Cherokee for the Work-Camp. The UMC partners with the Cherokee people to cut & split fire wood for the people of the Cherokee reservation. Though we only get to spend 2 days, this is a week-long project, where many come from around the Southeast to work and minister. This year, due to weather, we were also able to take the youth to the Cherokee History Museum.



Update on Projects and Needed items for Thousandsticks

Since the last newsletter, we have been blessed with new additions here at the church, including a new picnic area, new roof extension on the fellowship hall, and deck on the parsonage. Thanks for your prayers in this.

Some of the items needed for ministry are Prayers. **Work-teams.** Good quality used clothing for the community store. An addition to the store for a larger storage room as well as area to wash & dry clothes as they

come in. A Storage Building for work-team materials & general equipment storage. Good conditioned used tools & equipment for work-teams. Groups who would like to help with VBS. Financial Support for different ministries of TUMC, such as Kids For Christ and Youth. Please contact Pastor Robert with any inquiries. Work project lists will be available soon if interested.

We were blessed this year by several groups raising clothing items for our community store. Those items not only help the church but the community as well as well as other churches in our Conference.



Red Bird Conference News

Things at Red Bird continue to keep improving as we continue to share the Good News of the Gospel in the communities where we serve..

This year, it was reported that our conference, for the 3rd consecutive year, ended the year in the black financially and did not have to draw from reserves. God continues to provide for our ministries even in the face of these hard economic times here in Southeast Kentucky.

This year, Red Bird continued in their partnerships with both the Alabama/West Florida Conference and Kentucky Conference. We are looking forward to working with our Sisters & Brothers from both Conferences in ways that can

enhance our ministries together.

The \$25 Building for the future campaign continues in our conference. Once again, we sent a Conference Mission Team to Florida to work. We are not just a receiving conference but we give as well. Red Bird School continues to be viable and expanded to international students this past year.

If you are a supporting church or individual and would like to continue to support us, please contact Pastor Robert or call the Red Bird Missionary Conference office at 606-598-5915 and ask for Conference Treasurer – Shirley Walker. Our Red Bird Missionary Support number is 3020-70. Please send any funds directly to Red Bird not the GBGM. Remember you WILL receive credit for your 5-star giving or second mile giving. **Thank you all for your support, prayers, and gifts.**



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Christ in the Heart
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Year in Review Thoughts

As I reflect back on 2015, I think about how God has blessed us another year here at Thousandsticks. We all go through the typical church events and activities but it seems that this year God blessed us greatly in many different ways.

Our family continues to minister to the needs of the people in a variety of ways.

We began the year keeping busy with Jordyn's academics, church activities, and dealing with lots of snow. Jordyn & I once again went to Frankfort for the General Assembly but this time for two days. Easter led to Spring, which brought Baseball & Softball. It also brought our 1st work-team from Warner Robbins, GA.

May brought Annual Conference and Robert's election as a delegate to General & Jurisdictional Conferences. It also brought Senior Breakfast at the High School, a great community ministry. Jordyn also graduated 8th Grade in May.

The summer brought work-teams and VBS, which was exciting this year as we had both going on at the same time. We were blessed in getting to know new friends from East OH and Brewton, AL. We really enjoy getting to know the people who come to work and share in our community and we love working with the young people and families of

our community. Though the summer is always busy, it's always an enjoyable time. We wrapped up our work-teams with our friends from Waretown, NJ.

As we moved from summer to back to school, Jordyn began High School and we visited our friends at Lebanon UMC in SC. The Osborne Brothers Bluegrass festival keeps us active and busy as well.

September & October brought General Conference meetings, Clergy School, visit from a Pastor & spouse from Michigan, Visit to Alabama, and our Annual Harvest celebration.

In November, Robert was chosen to officiate at the State Volleyball Tournament. We also had our Cherokee Woodcutting trip, Charge Conference, Thanksgiving, Advent, & my favorite service, the Hanging of the Greens. December brought our wonderful Christmas programs.

Through it all, God continues to bless & guide us and it has come because of the prayers and support from brothers and sisters, friends and family like you. Thanks you all again for all your support. May God continue to bless each of you and us in 2016.

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