

# A Red Bird's Note in Thousandsticks

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Robert Amundsen Jr., Pastor



## GREETINGS FROM THE AMUNDSEN'S

Dear friends,

I apologize that it has been over 2 years since we have shared with you all in regards to the ministry taking place here in the mountains of Southeast Kentucky.

Since we last shared with you, We continue to be blessed in many ways and it's been a joy to help share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people we meet and live around each day.

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.

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



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## Update on Shirley & Robert

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

Shirley continues to work as an Americorps Peer Mentor at Leslie County High School. She helps students keep on task for school, sign up for ACT, search for scholarships, sign up for the FAFSA, and other school related activities. She continues to direct our Children's and Youth ministries as well as VBS. She has also started her hobby of cake baking again, having done several for different occasions. 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, as Conference Secretary, coordinates the Covenant Support Group & yearly Church Prayer Partner list for the Red Bird Missionary Conference. In 2016, Robert served as a Delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. He was also elected to on the Board of the UM Publishing House as well as the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability and the SEJ Episcopal Committee.

### Upcoming Events

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

### Jordyn in Review



Jordyn is now 16 and a Junior at Leslie County High School. He is also taking dual credit college courses through Eastern Kentucky University and is carrying a 4.0 in those courses.

Jordyn just completed his 3rd year on the High School Academic Team. His favorite subject area is still Social Studies and he was Captain of the team this year. Jordyn is now looking forward to playing baseball once again

for the High School team, where he should be a starter this season. Jordyn is also a member of the High School Drama club and School Choir. Jordyn now has his drivers permit and working towards his full license.

Jordyn is active in the church youth group and is a youth representative to the church Ad Board. He is also active in the community serving as an officer in the County 4-H.

### 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.

We have not done any itineration in the past couple of years and we are looking forward to getting the opportunity to be able to get back out and visit many of you in the near future.

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. Please don't hesitate to invite us. We would love to come.



*“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 year working with us and our community here at Thousandsticks. Though we have had some groups unable to return, we have been blessed with a couple of new groups.

The projects these past couple of years ranged from painting projects, ramps and decks built, covered walkways, storage building built, cleaning of places as

well as various projects around the church. 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 Alabama-West Florida and Pennsylvania.



## HONDURAS

In June, 2016, Robert and Jordyn were a part of a Mission Team from the Kentucky Annual Conference to work in Honduras. This was an exciting trip for both Robert and Jordyn, but it also began within Jordyn his love of flying. It turned out that the South Carolina Conference was also a part of the work in Honduras and during the week together, we got to know the wonderful folks from the South Carolina team, including one young lady who is a member at one of our supporting churches. The team we were a part of worked in a village mainly helping build latrines, water pilas (troughs for clean water), concrete floors, a roof project, and Robert was able to go with a local pastor to visit and pray with some families in the village. Jordyn and Robert are hoping to go back in the Summer of 2019 following Jordyn's graduation from High School.



## Cherokee Woodcutting Work-Camp

This past year, we were unable to attend the Woodcutting Work-Camp due to school schedules. In November, 2016, A group of 9 people (3 Adults and 6 Youth) travelled to Cherokee, NC for the Annual Woodcutting 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 is a great experience for our youth as they get to experience Christ in a new way.



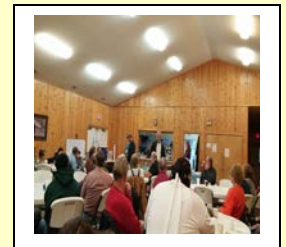
## Update on Projects and Needed items for Thousandsticks

Since the last newsletter, we have been blessed with new additions here at the church, including a covering over the walkway from the church to the fellowship hall and a storage building. 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. 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 are available, 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 in the Red Bird Missionary Conference continue to keep improving as we continue to share the Good News of the Gospel in the communities where we serve..

In 2016, we welcomed a new Bishop (Leonard Fairley), a new Conference Superintendent (Rev. Karen Stigall), and in 2017, we welcomed our Assistant Superintendent (New Position, Rev. Jim Savage). With the new Conference leadership, we are seeing some great changes taking place and coming for the RBMC.

Red Bird continued its 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.

We are not just a receiving conference but we give as well. This year, our Conference Offering will go toward our Camping Ministries and Africa University. There is also a new Conference Video, which shows the work of the RBMC and is available upon request

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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## Camping Ministries

In 2017, the Red Bird Missionary Conference started a new relationship with the Camping Ministries of the Kentucky Annual Conference following the closing of Camp O' Cumberlands. This past year, we had 6 youth and 2 adults attend camp at Aldersgate Camp in Ravenna, KY from Thousandsticks. Four of the youth actually got to attend twice. Robert was asked last minute to fill in as a dean for the Senior High Horse Camp that is offered and enjoyed it so much, he is returning back this summer as the dean of the Jr. High Cottage Camp. This new partnership has been a great opportunity for the young people of our church to experience camp in a beautiful setting and a great Christian environment.

## Christmas Card Ministry

This year, the church has been involved in programs at our local detention center (as the Jailer & his family attend here). We have assisted in purchasing boots for crews that go out in our County and clean and weed-eat the cemeteries and other areas. At Christmas, we wanted to do something new and different. We heard about a Christmas Card ministry a UMC in South Carolina has done. We decided to do that here for our detention center. The church collected and signed over 350 cards for Staff and Inmates to try and spread the Joy and Gospel of Christmas to those who may not experience it inside those walls. It was a great experience for our church and we are looking for other ways to partner and share with those at the detention center.

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